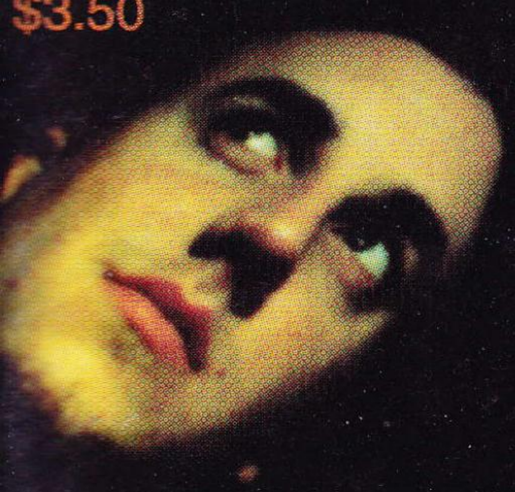
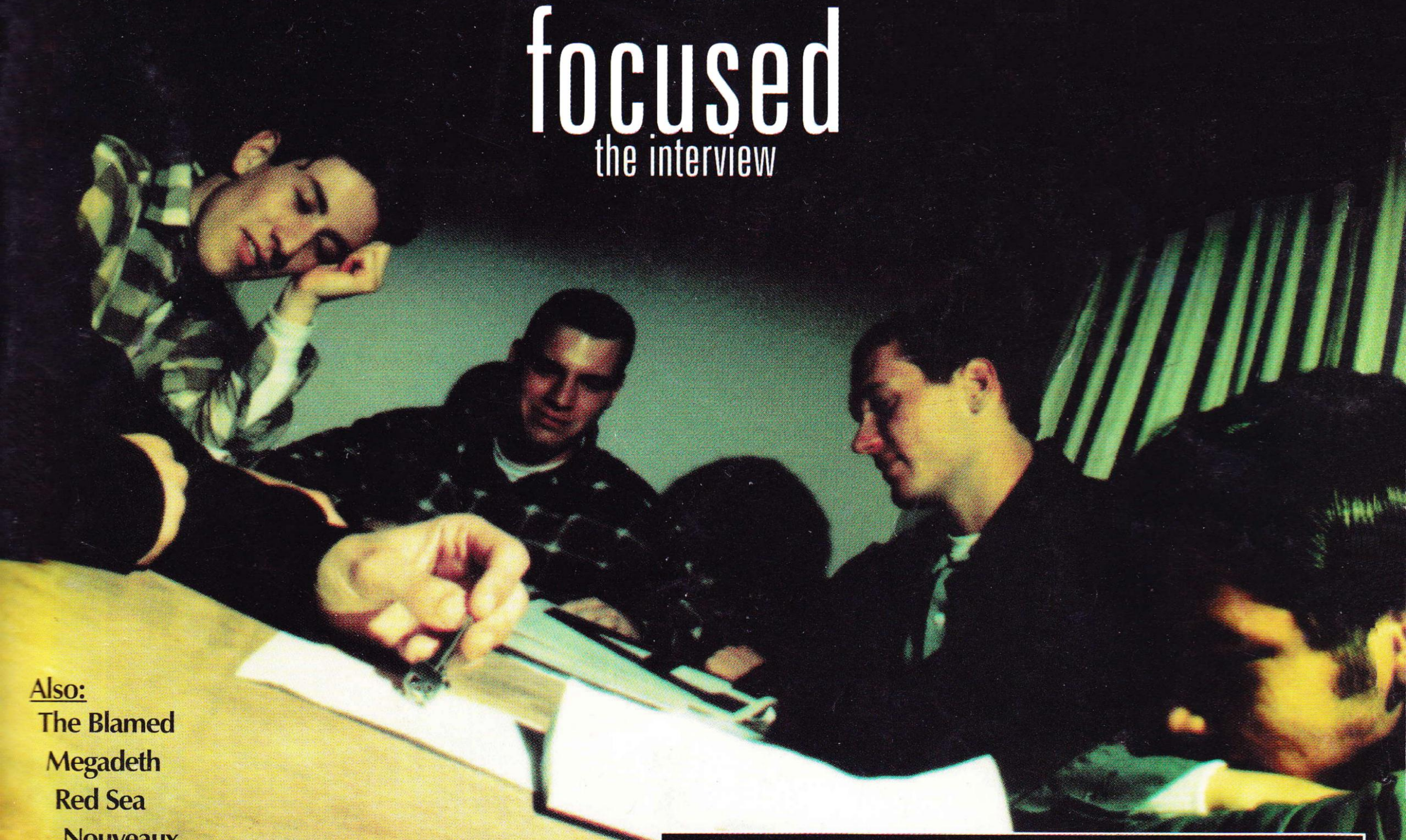
Jan/Feb 95
Issue #51
$3.50



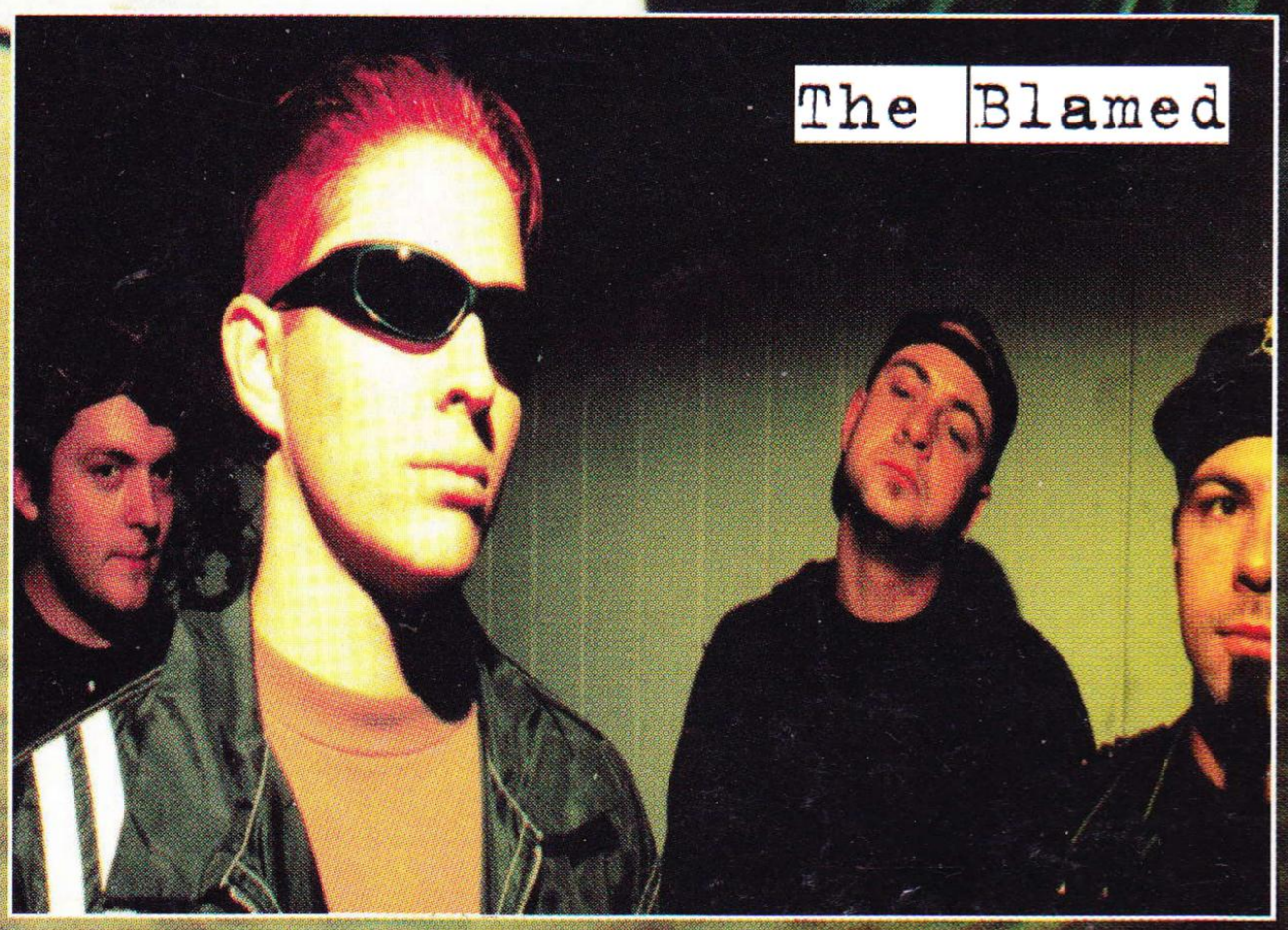
HEAVENS METAL

your hard music authority

focused
the interview



Also:
The Blamed
Megadeth
Red Sea
Nouveaux
Velocipede
Amy Wolter
Poor Old Lu
Barren Cross
"94" Staff Picks
Artist Book Reviews
A Look At Christian Colleges
Producer Profile: Sam Taylor
Plus News, Columns,
Reviews, & More!



02
0 74470 79599 5

THIS IS REALLY STRANGE!

THERE'S NO CRUD IN THIS GUY'S FINGER TIPS!

You're probably wondering, "How can that be, Charlie? How come there's none of those industrial, brown-green skid marks in this guy's finger tips like I always have in mine?" Simple. My American-made **CHARLIE STRINGER'S SNARLING DOGS** nickel and Nuclear Nickel electric guitar and bass strings and my **CHARLIE STRINGER'S UNPLUGGED** phosphor bronze acoustic strings are so reasonably priced that, like our double-digited buddy above, you can now afford to change your strings on a regular basis without having to pledge an important piece of your anatomy as collateral. Your fingers stay clean; your strings stay bright.

So before you worry about how much unidentifiable crust will fly off your strings when you hit your next power chord, switch over to **CHARLIE STRINGER'S SNARLING DOGS** and **UNPLUGGED** strings. Pleasure is just a music store away.

Colossus, King of Offers

Send $16 for a set of **SNARLING DOGS** Nickel strings and a SD Tee with 2-sided Michelangelo-Quality art or $18 for a set of **SNARLING DOGS** Nuclear Nickel strings and the SD Tee. Or send $16 for a set of **UNPLUGGED** acoustic strings and **UNPLUGGED** Tee with cool **UNPLUGGED** art on the front. Choose SD Metal: Nickel____, Nuclear Nickel____. Choose SD Gauge (circle one): K-9's (9-42), Rin-10-10's (10-46), UNP Gauge: 10's, 12's or 13's. Choose LG or XLG Tee. Add $4 S&H. Act now and get a bottle of my Tasmanian Buff Master and Filth Repellent Guitar Polish, ***FREE!*** That's a $3.95 value! Offer void outside US. Sorry, it's a postal thing. Make sure to include your address so I don't send your strings to some place like Peoria or Tanjungkarang.

Send your payment and order to: Stringer Industries, Inc. PO Box 4241 Dept. HM, Warren, NJ 07059 Charlie Stringer's, Snarling Dogs, Nuclear Nickel, Unplugged, and Tasmanian Buff Master and Filth Repellent are trademarks of Charlie Stringer Industries, Inc., so please don't rip me off. Colossus is a trademark of the Ben Hur Leadership Council. Michelangelo is a trademark of the Vatican Institute for Inverted Artists. Thanks for the order and drop me a line if you can. I'm lonely. Suggested list prices: **Snarling Dogs** Nickel: $6.95 * SD Nuclear Nickels: $8.45 and **UNPLUGGEDS**: $7.95, all BH (Before Haggling). Charlie Stringer's Strings is a subsidiary of Stringer Industries Inc.. Internationally known for it's obscurity. Charlie created this ad all by himself. Charlie's cheap.

Charlie Stringer's Strings **Phn: 908-469-2828** **FAX: 908-469-2882.** **Retailers: See us at NAMM, Booth 3242**

HEAVEN'S METAL

YOUR HARD MUSIC AUTHORITY

January/February '95 Issue #51

4 A LOOK AT CHRISTIAN COLLEGES

6 LETTERS TO ED

8 FOCUSED In this interview, HM writer Brent Hershey found that there was no makeup, no teased hair, no fake BGV tracking tapes, only five men who love God and sweat for him on stage.

12 THE BLAMED Alabaman Andrew Crump interviews one of the toughest drummers ever to beat the skins -- Jim Chaffin -- and finds a good definition for hardcore.

13 NOUVEAUX Caught in the middle of their tour with Michael Sweet, David Muttillo meets the newest addition to Benson's rock roster.

14 POOR OLD LU HM Writer Randy Rocker interviews a young band out of Seattle with a surprising mature sound. No makeup or tight spandex was found during the course of this interview, either.

15 AMY WOLTER Ever wonder what happens to female lead vocalists when their bands split up? Dan MacIntosh writes about the radio friendly pop rock that Fighter's ex-lead singer is now making.

16 BARREN CROSS Former HM intern Andrew Crump gets close to the cage of an energetic tiger of a band that's itching to get out and rattle the brain of an unsuspecting audience.

18 RED SEA In his last story before taking a short sabbatical, 49ER fan Jerry Wilson catches up with one of Christian rock's finest vocalists -- Red Sea's Robyn Kyle.

19 VELOCIPEDE In one of the strangest interviews he's ever done, HM writer David Jenison tries to keep the attention of gas station attendant Dann Gunn on the two-man band known as Velocipede.

20 SAM TAYLOR Our "Producer Profile" brings us face to face with one of the best -- Sam Taylor. Learn what he's looking for in artists, as news of him starting a new label breaks with this story.

22 MEGADETH Lots of people have asked for this one: Our "What So & So Sez" feature brings us a conversation with Megadeth drummer Nick Menza.

35 THE HOTTEST TOUR IN TOWN!

Photo © Tania A. Yost

25 1994 STAFF PICKS While you were busy racking your brain for your '94 Reader's Poll picks, our staff was racking their brains trying to figure out what really spun their individual tops this past year.

26 METAL TRACKS Find out what Record label Bride just signed with; and who's producing the next REZ album; plus more news than you can handle.

28 DOUG'S DIARY What are you doing reading this? Can't a guy go to Australia and to the Foundations Forum without everyone knowing about it?

35 CONCERT REVIEWS Three of the hottest tour packages to go out in a long time are reviewed here: Guardian, Michael Sweet, and Mortal. And then there's the Galactic Cowboys...

41 ARTIST BOOK REVIEWS We start a new feature this issue, where a well-known artist (in this case Scott Wenzel of Whitecross) reviews three books that have come across his desk in recent times.

REGULAR ELEMENTS:

42 ALBUM REVIEWS

56 TRADING POST

59 PASTOR BOB

60 LICKS & TRICKS

HEAVEN'S METAL (ISSN 1066-6923) is published bi-monthly for $12 per year by Heaven's Metal, 6614 Bradley Drive, Austin, TX 78723.
Second-Class Postage Paid at Austin, Texas and at additional mailing office.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Heaven's Metal, PO Box 17367, Austin, TX 78760-7367.

Going To a Christian College?

By Brent Hershey

You're an 18 year-old high school senior, sitting up to the holiday dinner table. The only thing on your mind is dark meat or white, wing or thigh. Then Uncle Joe pops the question.

"So, where are you going to college?"

Basically, it's a 90's version of "What do you want to be when you grow up?" and the parallel is obvious. In an age when so many are taking education beyond high school, the choices have only gotten more difficult. Bible school or college? Christian or non-Christian? City or country? Near to home or far? In addition, aspects such as affordability and a course of study are all considerations.

Among the increasing options is a Christian-based post high school education. The myth has always been that a Christian education doesn't stack up to a non-Christian university education in the nuts and bolts of the real world. And, while some private schools' resources may be a bit limited when compared to the major state schools', a Christian education gives the student things that can't be bought -- a Christ-like worldview of a very unChristlike world and an emphasis on spiritual and personal growth.

"It's our goal to help students think for themselves," says Shawn Leftwich, Admissions Counselor at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois, on the subject of the benefits of a Christian worldview. "We try to have students work through issues from a Christian perspective. It's the basis for analytical thinking that they use in whatever areas they go into."

Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, employs a six-point program called the "Whole Person Education." "It involves the spiritual, intellectual, physical, social development, emotional and vocational," states Dianne Ross of the University Relations department. "The theory of the whole-person education is that Taylor tries to provide resources and programs to enable graduates to serve in the field, as leaders in community, and to serve Christ with a Christian commitment. Combined, students are more prepared -- not only academically, but also spiritually and socially as well."

Liberty University Vice President for Admissions and Recruitment Jay Spencer puts it another way. "We try to have a dual focus of academics and spirituality, to strike a balance between social, academic and spiritual. It may sound like we're trying to be all things to all people -- and, in a way, we are."

Spencer also notes a trend in admissions that has taken a generation to nurture. "We're seeing the first fruits of the Christian school movement that started about 25 years ago. We're now seeing kids that have been in a Christian educational environment from kindergarten to graduation, and are now coming to a Christian college. We didn't use to see that much, but we are seeing more of it now."

It's this generation that has the choice before them, and many are

God

It doesn't **mean much** anymore to say you're a **"Christian college."**

"Christian" **could mean a** *"fundamentalist"* **school that forces its students to obey, or it could mean a** *"liberal"* **school with no real direction.**

North Park College is Christian yet we are **different...**

1. We emphasize "social justice faith" and personal "evangelism faith."
2. We don't tell students what to believe or how to live. No faith statements— just encouragement and education.
3. Our college is repeatedly ranked Top 15 by *U. S. News & World Report.*
4. Our urban location provides an incredible breadth of ministry opportunities

If you're someone who only wants to be around clones or just read books about Christian discipleship rather than putting flesh on your faith, don't come to North Park !

...There are scores of other "Christian" colleges you can attend.

But if you're a *thoughtful Christian,* who doesn't have all the answers (maybe not even all the questions!) but is genuinely seeking them...

We'd be honored to welcome you into the vibrant, *growing* community of active faith called North Park.

NORTH PARK COLLEGE

3225 West Foster Ave.
Chicago, Illinois
60625-4895
312 244-5500 or
800 888-NPC8

ignoring the myth, placing more value in things like student relationships, a caring staff and faculty, and missions opportunities that Christian colleges and Bible schools have to offer. As Deb Lacey, Vice President of Student Life at George Fox College in Newberg, Oregon, says, "We put the emphasis on the person rather than the program." Many are agreeing wholeheartedly.

Student Life

Many Christian schools talk of a healthy student life contributing greatly to the college experience. Friendships made over dorm-delivered pizza or coffeehouse conversation often last a lifetime. "It's a very close-knit environment," says Leftwich of Wheaton. "The Christian aspect is very important, not only inside, but outside the classroom. We have a strong dorm life,and there is lots of social development taking place."

A majority of Christian institutions boast residential, rather than commuter, campuses that keep the extracurricular activities plentiful. Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for example, requires students to live on campus and has a brother/sister wing program set up where social activities are scheduled around these different 32-person groups each semester. If big-time college athletics at either a participant or spectator level is a consideration, Liberty University is one of only a few evangelical schools that competes in NCAA division I. With a bit of looking, you'll find other Christian schools with the same athletic choices that a non-Christian school would have.

The result of all the experiences of student life is friends to share joy, heartbreak, and even a real-life trait or two. Gwen Fellenbaum, graduate of Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, identifies one: "The relationships that I made at college were very important -- I've stayed in touch with my roommates. I also learned a lot about living with someone -- how to communicate with each other -- that has helped me later in life, and prepared me for marriage."

At many schools, the student/professor relationship is a lasting one, too. Because total enrollment and class size is less than most state universities, a Christian college is often a place where students are able to develop a relationship with professors, which is most likely unattainable in another setting. The pupil/teacher ratios are kept low for a reason. Plus, most prof's have an interest beyond their monthly paycheck.

"It's an investment, and we take seriously the responsibility of walking alongside students," Lacey from George Fox explains. "We're investing in their lives."

Service/Missions

Service is another aspect of the Christian college experience that, thankfully, is still thriving at most schools. As with other programs, there is a wide variance of importance placed on service or missions, depending on the college. Some Bible schools and colleges require a certain amount of service credits to graduate; others keep it wholly volunteer. Regardless of the curriculum, however, nearly all Christian schools have an Office of Community Service that helps organize and plan anything from a short-term day trip to a six-month overseas experience. Some even have made community service as a part of their student orientation program as a way to jump-start involvement during the years at school.

Seattle Pacific University is one example. The City Quest program is a part of orientation; a day-long excursion to social service agencies within the city. "Service is an aspect taken seriously," says Jennifer Gilnet, Editor of Response, the SPU alumni magazine. Their Office of campus Ministries coordinates programs for youth and prison ministries, homeless shelters, and other unique opportunities and challenges that a major metropolitan area has to offer.

Likewise, Wheaton College is in close proximity to Chicago, and the college arranges drama and street witnessing teams to make an effect in their city. Wheaton also offers a few different overseas packages -- "Human Needs and Global Research" (HNGR) is a six-month mission/internship to a third-world country, and "Wheaton in the Holy Land" is a six-week seminar work program that tours Israel, Egypt, and Italy; as well as participate in an archeology dig. Most programs such as these are open to anyone, and are there for the stretching.

On a different level, the students at Taylor have a big impact -- mainly because of the quaintness of the community they serve. Upland, Indiana is a community of approximately3,000 -- so when Taylor's 1,800 students get to work helping with various community service projects, Upland knows it. But, no matter if the college town is big or small, the Lord's people serving Him can be felt in any neighborhood.

There's also more than just service opportunities to consider when choosing the hometown of the right Christian college for you. A city offers unlimited intern and postgraduate positions; a small town can get to count on and trust the students a Christian college sends them. Seattle Pacific, for instance, has a strong program in internships in taking advantage of urban area. "Most students participate in some form of internship," Gilnett says. "It's a good opportunity to try out their chosen field in the workplace."

"The urban connection is a large part of what Seattle Pacific has to offer prospective students. Very few, if any, other Christian schools are in the middle of as large an urban area as we are. Many opportunities are here in Seattle -- internships, service opportunities, the arts and social events are just a few."

Denominational Choices

Just as with differing churches, Christian colleges have some denominational differences between them. In some instances, it's not a major concern -- in others, it could make you very uncomfortable. Worshipers used to O.R.U.'s primarily Foundation of the Holy Spirit and charismatic teachings might not exactly jell at George Fox College, an Evangelical Friends (Quaker) affiliated school that practices silent worship; or vice-versa. It's best to just check your local listings -- your pastor usually is a good reference point at which to start. Most Christian colleges have some sort of lifestyle expectation guidelines that all students must adhere to. Some include a dress code of dress shirts and ties for men and dresses or skirts for women. Just be sure what to pack when you leave home.

But don't feel you have to go to school if you're not sure it's for you. Even though nearly two-thirds of the students to Christian colleges receive some sort of institutional aid (according to the Christian College Coalition, a Washington DC-based organization), finances should still be a consideration. There are other ways to find out the path that God has for your life than jumping right into college undecidedly. As one former student said, "It's cheaper to not make money for a year in voluntary service than to spend a year's worth (or more) of tuition trying to discover what you want to do."

For those that are ready to take the plunge, though, the challenges, friendships, and memories of a Christian higher education can be a cornerstone to living your life in accordance to God's truth. And Christian educators are ready for the challenge.

"Students today want leaders to be in the trenches with them -- from faculty to administration to staff," says Lacey, George Fox VP. "We need to be there for them. But rather than protect them, we prepare them."

HM

Brent Hershey is a recent graduate (and newlywed) of Temple University in Philadelphia, PA (but his favorite football team is the Dallas Cowboys).

Printed in the United States
Editor: Doug Van Pelt
Office Manager: Charlotta Van Pelt
Contributing Editors: Bob Beeman, Kemper Crabb, Jeff Scheetz, Scott Wenzel
Contributing Writers: Jeremy Choi, Jason Clifton, Andrew Crump, Brent Hershey, David Jenison, Jeff Lott, Dan MacIntosh, Dave Muttillo, Mitch Roberts, Randy Rocker, Eric Shirey, Jerry Wilson.
Subscription Manager: Marianne Fry
Advertising Sales: Charles Gates
Staff Photographers: Larry Bolen & Peter Petretta

Heaven's Metal
mailing address:
PO Box 17367
Austin, Texas 78760-7367
USA

Main office
(ship parcels here):
6614 Bradley Drive
Austin, Texas 78723

Advertising Sales: (512) 929-9278
Customer Service: (512) 929-9278
fax #: (512) 929-1950
Compuserve: 74434,2465
Trademark registration no. 052519
Member Gospel Music Association

Scripture

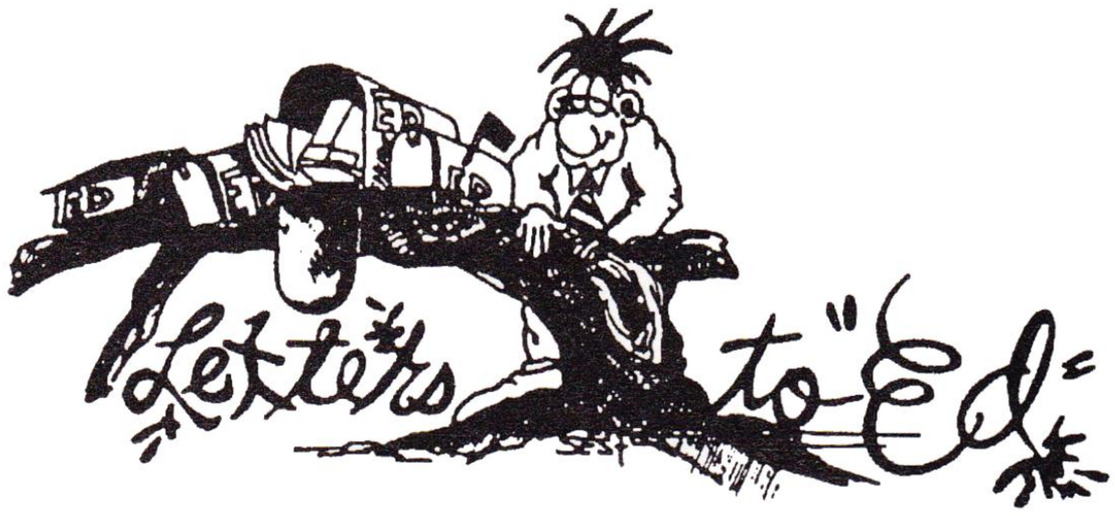
"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO HEAVEN'S METAL ARE $12.
Canadian subscriptions are **$17.**
Overseas subscriptions are **$27.**
(These prices are for paid subscriptions only. Subscriptions that are billed will cost $15, $20 or $30, respectively.)

If You Move... please send us a note and indicate both your old address and your new address at least six weeks in advance.

Subscribers: To find out when your subscription expires, look for the number directly above your name on the mailing label

All contents copyright © 1995 Heaven's Metal Magazine, except where noted (*). Contents may not be reproduced in any manner, either whole or in part, without prior written permission.



MEGA-SUGGESTION

I was wondering if you have ever interviewed Dave Mustaine from Megadeth for your "What So & So Sez" column. If you have, please send me information on ordering the back issue. If you haven't, please do. It would be great to read an interview which focuses on his newfound faith, and his battle with drugs and alcohol rather than his guitar playing. He's setting a good example for his fans and the members of other secular bands by rising up from such a low point in his life to be where he is today.

--Jonathan Matthews
Burke, Virginia

(Ed -- Funny you should mention Megadeth, since they are featured in this issue. We didn't get Mustaine behind the interview mic, though, but drummer Nick Menza. For your info, here is a list of back issues still available and what band was so & so: (#29) Testament; (#33) Sepultura; (#34) Dangerous Toys; (#35) Overkill; (#36) Primus; (#37) Babylon A.D.; (#40) Living Colour; (#41) Asphalt Ballet; (#42) Dream Theater; (#43) Rage Against The Machine; (#44) Bad Religion; (#45) Kiss; (#46) Fight; (#47) Brother Cane; (#48) Sepultura; (#49) Collision; (#50) Love/Hate. The following issues are sold out, but could be ordered as part of our "new technology" offer of any two articles from HM faxed to you for $2: (#25) Shotgun Messiah; (#27) Metallica; (#28) Extreme; (#30) Queensryche; (#38) Corrosion of Conformity; and (#39) Tora, Tora.)

STATE OF CONTROL?

I am a big Barren Cross fan. It gets me sick to think that all their old CD's are out of print! I have them, but was wondering if you knew of any way that I would be able to get a CD of *State of Control*. The one I have is too scratched to play. If you have any info on how I could go about getting a copy of that, I would greatly appreciate it!

--Daniel Ortman
Portland, Oregon

(Ed -- I'm afraid you are not alone and I cannot help you! Enigma, as you know, went out of business. A lot of people would like to get ahold of this particular CD, as well as a number of other titles. You see, most Christian record companies, for some reason, apparently don't see the value in a hard rock back catalog. On a money level, these albums stopped selling, so they let 'em go out of print. It's as simple as that, but it can be very sad for those who wish to get a copy after the fact, eh?)

THE TEST OF PROPHECY

The Lord desires so strongly to use Christian music as a way to bring awareness and unity to the Body of Christ, and then as a primary evangelization tool on the lost youth of this nation! Awareness of the enormous validity and potential that Christian music has as a ministry to the lost. Unity, as the Body of Christ comes together to finance Christian music ministry to the lost youth in this nation.

Let ministries and youth ministries network in every major city and in the surrounding areas of these major cities. Let the denominational (doctrinal) walls come down. Music is the common denominator that can do it. Let's begin to receive harvest offerings every week from every youth in these city-wide and surrounding area networks. (Just a dollar per youth, per week, would do it!) Once a month, bring in a Christian artist to hold a concert. The whole purpose of this vehicle is to then present it to the public school system in the area. The money raised would cover the cost. This would be a tremendous blessing as the Body of Christ stands up to minister to lost youth everywhere.

If, for instance, a band is going to hold a Friday or Saturday night concert, they could do this: 1) Campus Bible clubs could promote the event ahead of time. 2) Members of the band could go to scheduled assemblies at target schools the day of or before the show to announce their arrival. 3) Announce it as a free or very "minimal charge" event, because the offerings would pretty much cover the cost.

When these steps are taken, many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord! This will bring an answer where man and government has no answer! This will be taking back territory the devil has so grossly perverted. God created music! Styles of music themselves are not evil, it is the message that is evil! It is time to attack the devil where he has attacked the youth the hardest -- in the music!

As this vision grows, I see incredible things happening! Initially, I see the youth being ignited with an incredible weapon of God! I see a major harvest of heretofore almost untouchable lost

youth! I then see the unity and revival spreading quickly to the rest of the Body of Christ! We all know what follows unity and revival -- Mass Evangelism!

On top of this foundation we would begin to establish Christian youth "hang-outs," if you will. Top-notch here! Nothing second rate! A place besides church to gather, fellowship, get ministered to, see these concerts, and prepare to go out in teams to street witness! An all-encompassing vision for the youth in a city-wide and surrounding area setting!

Find the key church in a Metropolitan area. Establish a network in that area off the key church. Birth this vision in a person or persons to promote these concerts by using the harvest offerings. Present this vision to the school system in that area to reach the youth, and for God's glory to be seen by the secular establishment. As the vision grows, begin establishing the youth centers.

To continue the vision, the Lord wants to use His music artists in other countries as evangelism tools. For instance, when the Soviet Union opened up, a bunch of secular bands went over and had a huge concert in Moscow. The time is now to begin taking bands into these nations who will preach the Gospel!

--Phillip Blunk
Little Rock, Arkansas

LYRIC SACRIFICE

I'd like to start out by saying that I appreciate your magazine very much. I've been getting it for about 3 years now and it has kept me well informed, and the interviews have reassured me about the music I listen to. I read your interview with Living Sacrifice last issue and was very impressed with the songs they talked about, which would be on their next album. I was wondering if there is a way to get a hold of lyrics to albums, such as that one, without purchasing them (death metal just isn't my thing). I appreciate the message, but $12 or $15 is just too much to pay for an album I won't hardly listen to.

--Jeremy Chambers
Sterling Heights, Michigan

(Ed -- Sometimes writing to the band and requesting a copy of the lyrics will do. Even writing the record company may get you the lyrics as well. The record company address is usually printed on the outside of the cassette shell or CD packaging.)

THIS FOOD STINKS!

It was great to read some letters to you guys that did not have a ton of complaints. I am a chef and manage a kitchen in a country club, and people don't realize how much they complain about trivial things. I guess it doesn't matter if you run a magazine or any other people service, people are just always going to complain . . . so much easier!

--Jon Patterson
Cartersville, Georgia

COLLISION COMMENTS

I've never even listened to a Collision song, but I found myself really being able to relate to their bass player in your last "What So & So Sez." It made me think of the time I was 14 and this old man pointed at my Ozzy t-shirt and told me of how hot hell was going to be for me if I didn't cut my hair and burn all of Satan's presence from around me. At that time in my life I was very much into God, but I had not surrendered to Him. The old man did no more than chase me away from the church, and if it would have been someone who didn't grow up listening to songs like "After Forever," "Children of the Grave," and "It's Alright," he may have turned me away from God (those are all Black Sabbath songs that kept my faith in God strong when I was a teenager).

Then I turned the page and the guy giving the interview gave the most beautiful testimony that I have ever had the pleasure to read. Starting with the words, "I personally hate religion myself..." The bass player agreed with every word he spoke by the writing of the interview. And I wouldn't be a bit surprised if he decides to pick up the Bible for himself after the interview.

And to think just a few pages earlier I was reading these letters to the ed about how they shouldn't put secular groups in the mag, or Christian metal bands shouldn't wear "Helmet hats." To those guys, have you forgotten what our mission is? This is part of ministering. We can't move to some remote location and forget about our brothers who have been deceived.

You are once again judging a book by its cover. And to the guy who said Fight and Judas Priest were on Satan's side, I suggest you listen to the song "Exciter" from the *Sad Wings of Destiny* album. It's about Christ, and very positive, I might add. As for Fight, listen to "Kill It" closely. It deals with the false prophet and the beast. RobHalford obviously knows the Word. I just hope you know it equally as well.

I'm not trying to down any of the people who wrote these letters, but have they listened to the people they are accusing? Before you speak out against someone, you better know who that person really is. Or you might see him holding a finger at you at the Godseat.

--Dan Holmes
Clarksville, Tennessee

YOUNG GEEZERS By Jeff Swenson

FOCUSED

the interview

By Brent Hershey

"we're to be taken seriously."

It's many a Christian band's dream to have the balance of: skill at their craft; being recognized as such by both their Christian and non-Christian peers; to be at the center of a musical genre explosion; to have the real-life ministry opportunities, yet still not lose an ounce of their passion to spread the Word. The Southern California hardcore band Focused has found just that balance.

Exhibit A is *Bringing It Back*, a secular hardcore compilation on Ammunition Records that Focused, as well as labelmates Unashamed, will appear on soon. Put together by a friend they met through playing shows in Southern Cal, the appearance is a testimony to their influence on the scene. It heightens their credibility in a sometimes volatile environment, and, most important, is just one heck of a ministry opportunity. "Non-Christians get a chance to listen to what we're all about and to read the lyrics and find out what we stand for," says drummer and newest member Chris Bowden. "We come with the other bands -- they're not forced to listen to us, but I'm sure they're gonna listen to us."

According to guitarist Andrew Reizuch, connecting with that crowd makes perfect sense. "It's not like we're on a different planet, or the hardcore kids have to take a trip to the moon to realize what we're talking about. They can understand, 'cause a lot of them already have a sense of values and morals and so they can make that step. The correlation between how we live our lives and the purpose of our lives gives the chance for many non-Christians to become Christians, which we've seen happen a lot in Southern California. The non-Christian bands around here are so into what they believe -- like almost the next step for them is to become Christians. They're talking about how there's only one truth, and finding the right answers, and getting in touch with themselves -- which are all reasons for us to become Christians."

The other benefit is quite important, too, continues Reizuch. "I think it's going to build up our credibility with the secular hardcore scene. To let people know that we're for real -- we're not just a bunch of kids doing their own thing in a church or whatever; we're to be taken seriously. We're playing with the nation's most respected hardcore bands (on the compilation), and it's just great that we can fit in with them. It's just totally a blessing that we are able to do this."

Playing on a secular hardcore compilation album was probably not even a twinkle in vocalist Tim Mann's mind when he and the departed John Schottler teamed up for the first time (about five years ago) for a church talent show. Schottler is credited with naming the band, and contributed -- whole or in part -- two songs on *Bow*, Focused's 1993 debut album, although he never played on the record. The band went through the usual late-teens' share of members, with Mann a fixture on the vocal mic and lyric pen, but has now settled in with a five-man membership -- guitarist Mike Merryman, bassist Dirk Lemmenes, Mann, Reizuch, and Bowden (who both joined since *Bow* was recorded). Like many groups, the beginning years are looked back on with a bit of trepidation.

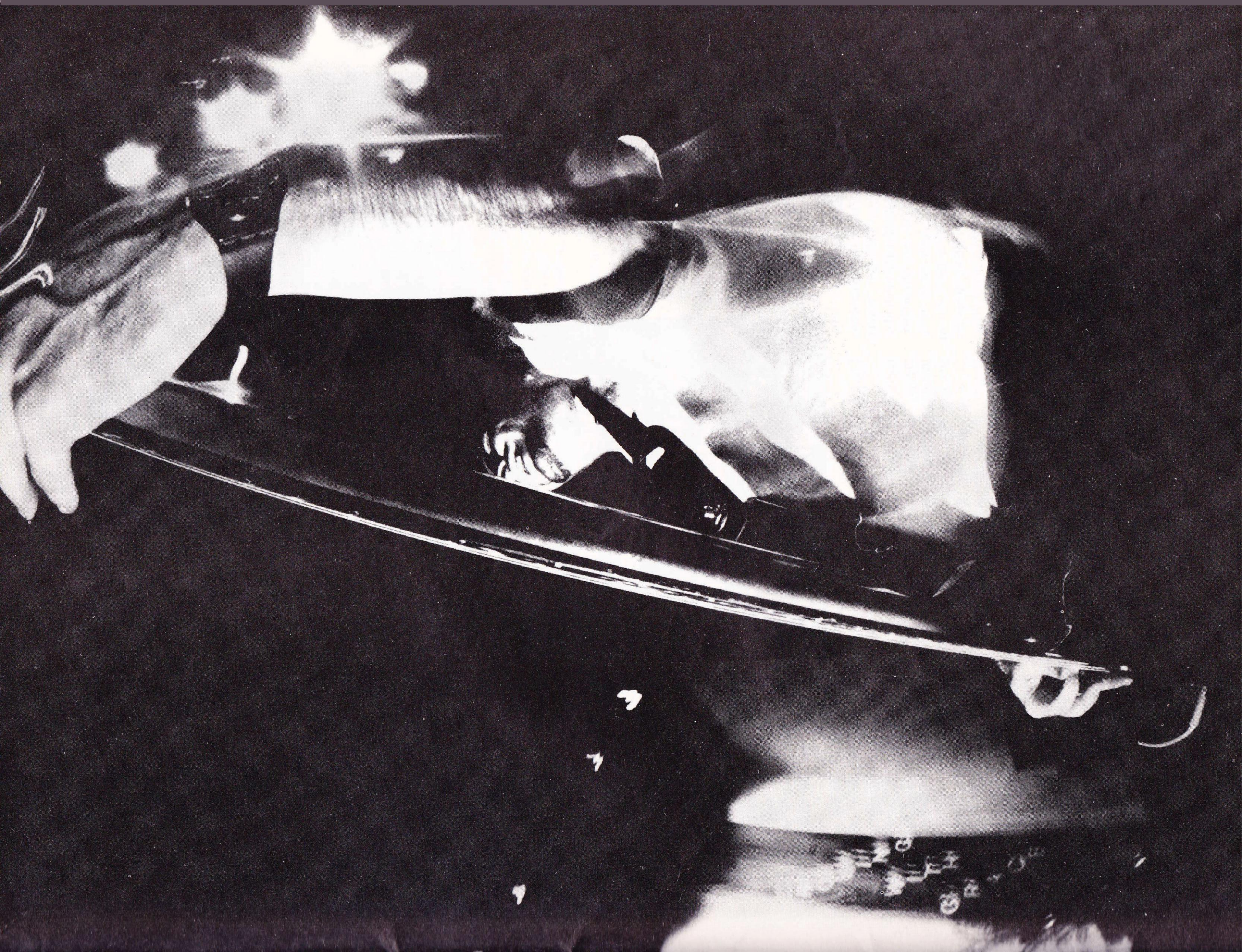
"The kind of stuff that we were playing back then -- I think that we were ready to grow in the music, but we were being so held back," remembers Mann. "Not so much by the musicians that were in the band, but by not becoming innovative . . . just not growing, (but) staying back with the sound that had been going four or five years ago."

Mann cites the addition of each member as a piece to the Focused puzzle. "When Dirk and Mike joined the band, it was fresh. Mike's guitar talents were so much what we were looking for. Before Mike, the sound wasn't exactly what I wanted to do. And especially when Andrew joined the band, the sound just really took off from there." And drummer Bowden played some guitar, also, and wrote a couple parts to a new song, called 'No One.' All of which points toward a, ahem, more focused new release.

"The new stuff that we're doing right now is totally going to be different from *Bow*," says Mann. "Personally, I think it's going to be a lot better -- some kids might think that it's not going to be as much upfront, (or) hardcore, but it's still more moody -- not metal or alternative, just really intricate."

"I like it a lot," says Reizuch, "because I get to contribute all my different guitar

Photos by Matt Wugnall



influences. It's going to be a whole different sound compared to the last album; real innovated. It's not going to sound like *Bow*, but you're going to be able to tell that it's the same band that has progressed through the years."

Mann cites a lyrical shift, too, in the as-yet-unnamed March release that is reason for fans to be excited.

"I had this ideas at Cornerstone to really try to touch on different subject matter. *Bow* was so up-front about God's grace and His mercy, whereas some of the stuff that I've been writing (lately) is touching on rape and incest, drug abuse. It's more issues-related.

"The one song that really just hit me -- I'm hoping that I can use the lyrics -- is a song about child abuse," Mann continues. "It doesn't have any music to it yet, but that's just one of the ideas we're working on. Two songs that are done are 'Empty' and 'No One.' 'Empty' is about the soul, and about not dying with your soul empty. It's when the soul actually ignites in flame -- the flame of Christ in God's Spirit -- to just be with you so your life canchange while we're here on earth; so that, when we stand before Him, we can go and hang out and eat dinner together.

"'No One' basically is Scripture from Romans, where it's talking about no one being righteous and the poison of vipers is on your lips. It's not a dark song, but when you read Scripture, God's Word is never going to come back void. It's basically telling Christians and non-Christians that we're nothing, absolutely nothing, and we're not going to do these things without God's power disposed in us. If we're not walking in His light, we're just losers, and that goes for both Christians and non-Christians."

The differences of the new record and how it relates to a group effort are not lost points on guitarist Reizuch. "I think the new record is a collaboration of all of us and our expressions of pain through our flesh. How we're just human, and it goes as far as Tim's lyrics, which would be the easiest to understand, and how he's talking about the topics that he just mentioned. For me, I did a painting for the cover that has to deal with that, too. And music follows that, too -- it's really, really emotional. It has so many different moods and feelings to it."

Moods and feelings of an intense nature, to be specific. In hand with their label, Tooth & Nail, Focused has been at the eye of the current Christian hardcore storm. Much of the action has taken place on the West Coast, and it is obvious now just how brilliant and trendsetting a band like The Crucified was, who were doing hardcore music before most Christians knew what to do with it. In light of the current explosion of Christian hardcore bands, Focused remains determined to, like The Crucified, stay a step ahead.

"I see the Christian hardcore scene coming up pretty fast," says Reizuch, "and there's a lot of bands out there. That's totally great, but that makes us try a lot harder to do something innovative. 'Cause I think when, Focused first came out, it was a real different sound, but now we have to go beyond and drop some new stuff that no one's ever heard and just get into it."

What is it about hardcore music that has gained so much popularity within the Christian subculture recently?

"It's not like we're on a different planet, or the hardcore kids have to take a trip to the moon to realize what we're talking about."

"I think there are a lot of kids that really couldn't find their place in Christian music," Lemmenes responds. "They were listening to music that was a lot more aggressive than what was usually accepted in the Christian music scene. I think it was bound to happen -- that more hardcore bands and punk bands would come into it, because kids who were Christians and who wanted to play music and wanted to bless people didn't have an outlet. Because they're not going to start a metal band or an alternative band or some contemporary band -- I mean, they want to play hardcore music, that's what they love. I think that's what motivated us to start a band. That's why I wanted to play in Focused. Because I love hardcore music."

Mann sees a change in the thinking within the industry as partly responsible for the music's boom. "I think the Christian music industry has finally taken a look and seen that Christian hardcore is completely different from any thing that's come out in Christian music. Hardcore music has been around for many, many years. I think the most popular things that were going on in the mainstream secular scene was the grindcore, the metal, and alternative -- whereas hardcore music has always been underground. Punk rock has always been in the little clubs; the kids have done shows in their backyards, rental halls, stuff like that.

"The Christian music industry just thinks that anything that's hard is metal," he continues. "They don't understand that, in hardcore music, it's not just the music, it's always been an attitude; having an outlet. Punk rock was always about being able to be different."

Relating Focused's success in recent years in both the Christian and underground scenes, Lemmenes reveals an obstacle the band has been faced with when dealing with hardcore's DIY motto.

"With the secular hardcore scene, it's a lot more grassroots -- kids do everything themselves," he says. "We're kinda seen as sellouts, because we have a contract with a record label; we actually get paid to play shows. In the hardcore scene, being paid and doing things right isn't really given any credit at all. They want to keep it really small and keep it really contained. That's why you really haven't heard any real secular hardcore explosion. There are big bands that have hardcore influences, I'd say, but hardcore is such a small thing; it's really just a bunch of kids having fun."

Focused has not fallen into the trap of exclusivity that the scene sometimes fosters, which would severely hamper the band's chance for changing lives. So, rather than going door-to-door witnessing, the band has chosen a method that is the equivalent of friendship evangelism.

"When I started the band, we started going to shows and wearing Focused T-shirts before we ever played a show," says Mann. "We became friends with some secular bands that . . . well, they were our friends. They knew what we were about, and they were cool, and they weren't Christians, but they would just accept us. So, we started getting shows, which was really neat. Because, before our time, there were other Christian hardcore bands, but theywere segregated; they were basically blocked from the secular scene; they weren't allowed to play, because they were Christians. Now we're noticing a big change."

One reason for the change is no doubt because of hardcore music's intentional individuality. While some may wish to nail a band like Focused just because of their Christian beliefs, some true hardcore fans realize that the vulnerability and passion with which Focused expresses themselves and their views is true to the spirit of hardcore -- if a bit different in message.

"Hardcore music is heartfelt," says Mann. "It's emotional; it's something that you really feel inside. Other Christian bands' lyrics may come from stories that happened, things that have happened to you in your life, Bible Scripture, whatever. My lyrics, though, have just been stuff that has come to me from the feelings that I've had; the things that I've seen before I was a Christian.

"With hardcore music, the reason why you put a band together is to go up there and show your beliefs. Whether you're going to talk about Krishna, you're gonna talk about vegetarianism or sexism or racism -- it's the same feel.

"You'll see that the real hardcore kids accept us despite our differences, because they know that hardcore is a melting pot of everyone's different ideas," adds Reizuch. "So they're the kids that can understand us and walk together with us and rock together with us too."

But not all listeners care to give Focused the platform to say what they believe.

"We got a chance to play a show with some secular bands, and I got up there and said some things about Christ and being a Christian," remembers Mann. "And some kids yelled at me, and said, 'Stop preaching! This isn't Summer Harvest Crusade.' The neat thing about it was the band that we were playing on tour with -- I don't know where they stand as far as Christianity, but they're really for gay rights. And we thought that their singer was really going to be against us. Yet he was the one in the back telling the other guy to shut up, to let us speak -- because that's hardcore. All we want to do is share with them that we have a love that is beyond belief. We want them to be able to understand that God's the One that has changed our lives; we didn't change them. It was just really neat how he totally stuck up for us. It was a really good experience.

"But, overall, we got persecuted a lot more in the past year than we have since I've been in the band. We realize that it's gonna come with the territory, and it's just showing that there are just things that are going on and people are just not going to like us."

The members all acknowledge that the flack can be frustrating -- whether it's centered on the band's record contract, their Christianity, or their music. But, fortunately, they also agree on the source of keeping the band together, the ministry alive, and, most importantly, available for God's use.

"The main thing, in a situation like this or any kind of situation for a Christian band, is to go to the number one guy that helps you out with all your problems, and that's God," says Merryman. "I struggle with prayer a lot, but I find that He is the healthiest source to go to as far as persecution is concerned and what you can do about it. (And) prayer and fellowship, too -- with friends and with the band. 'Cause you may not have all the answers to the questions that you have, so that's what your friends and the Bible are there for."

"Any time, like, one of us has something heavy on our hearts or we're struggling with something, we go talk about it with our fellow Christians," interjects Bowden, who proceeds to put Focused's occasional hardships in the proper perspective. "Usually I go to the Word, and read what God wants me to look at. What we're going through now is nothing compared to what the apostles went through around Jesus' time. I mean, they died

Photo by Matt Wugnall

Tim Mann

for Christ, and we're just getting yelled at or whatever. That's nothing compared to what they went through."

The band cites the song "Perfect Will," from *Bow*, as indicative of a place in which they wish to rest. Lyricist Mann explains it this way: "I wrote it during a period of time where I really needed to learn to give everything over to God. I never could understand about complete submission. I used to have a really difficult time with money, and problems with being in debt. And I think it was because I did so many things on my own and I didn't give the problems that I had with money over to the Lord. The same with the relationship problems that I had with a girlfriend of mine. It wasn't until God just really showed me about His good and pleasing and perfect will -- that I needed to ultimately give Him everything -- understanding that when I try to do things on my own, He's just standing there. He's not slapping me in the face, but just there, whispering in my ear, saying, 'Hey, I'm trying to teach you something, and you're really not listening to Me -- you want to do things this way, but I've got something better planned for you. Seek Me and really open yourself up, and understand that I'm the One that's going to have the perfect will for your life."

Amen.

HM

the blamed

BY ANDREW CRUMP

hard (hard) *adj.* 1. solid in substance or texture; resistant to penetration or cutting; unyielding.*

core (kor) *n.* 1. the innermost or essential part.*

To some, it's just a style of music. To others, it's a way of life.

The idea that hardcore music and Christian ideals can coexist seems like a contradiction in terms. For years, hardcore has been associated with angry and rebellious youth, shaved heads, leather and chains and an intent to cause damage. But, for The Blamed, hardcore is a devotion to Christ -- musically and spiritually.

The Blamed has departed somewhat from its straight ahead hardcore sound that was heard on the album *21*. The new album (*Frail*) is different," explained now full-time drummer Jim Chaffin. "It's different, and it's the same -- you know what I mean. It's still a little bit of punk rock, but it's a little more updated. It's not so 80's sounding as far as punk rock goes; but, of course, that's popular again. It has a little more variety. There's some really mellow stuff, there's some thrash sounding stuff and there's some hardcore stuff. It's not necessarily pieced together that well. It's just a lot of variety. The whole thing is pretty energetic though."

The new sound could be attributed to the band's new lineup. Guitarist Brian Gray and Jim are the only musicians still in the band who played on *21*. *Frail* will introduce the talents of bassist Gary "NRA Member" and vocalist Jeremy Moffit to The Blamed fans across the country. The previous bassist and vocalist departed to pursue other interests.

Photo by Matt Wugnall

Another reason for a different musical direction was the process in which the band wrote the songs for the album. The band held a sort of "together as one/ anything goes" kind of attitude during the recording of the album. "I'm really happy with the way the songs came out, because I had more to do with the writing of it than I did on *21*, where I just played the songs," said Jim. "On *Frail*, we put the songs together together (get that?). I'm pretty happy also with the way I played on the album. I think I was able to do a variety of playing some double bass stuff along with some mellower stuff that had a lot of feeling.

"We tried to just write songs for this that we liked. We didn't have a style in mind. We didn't have an image in mind. In The Crucified, we tried to write songs that fit The Crucified. With this, we just did whatever we thought sounded good. We weren't really too concerned whether it sounded too metal or too punk rock or too whatever."

The Blamed has not and will not happen by chance. The members feel that God has placed them together for a purpose. Jim said he shared with Jeremy that he had a real burden for the Christian youth who he saw at concerts. He felt there was a lack of spiritual growth in their lives. Jim said that Jeremy told him he shared the same vision. Jim feels that this and other shared beliefs have united the band together for a common goal. "This is the first band since The Crucified that I felt comfortable in as far as the people, especially with the line-up we have right now. I think that's why I chose to commit to it. Before, I wasn't too sure where it was going -- if it ever was going to be real serious, or if it was just a fun thing to do. With the four members we have right now, it's kind of a shared leadership. We all have equal say.

We all share the same vision -- what we feel the Lord has for us musically and personally -- which is to encourage the body of Christ to a closer walk with Jesus. That's important to me right now. I didn't want to get involved in something where one guy wants to just play music and another guy wants to just reach the lost."

The discussion of the idea of a band being a ministry has become a touchy subject among several of today's heavier rock artists, but Jim and his bandmates do not tap dance around calling themselves a ministry. They would not label their band anything but a ministry. "We're trying not to be a business, if that makes sense," explained Jim. "We're trying to be a ministry. We're trying to make decision as a ministry.

"All Christians are ministers. Every Christian has been told that he is an ambassador for Christ, and that we're to walk with Him in a manner worthy of the Gospel. Brian and I have been around enough to where we've seen what a business can do to you by making decisions as a business and not having the Lord's outlook. We call it a ministry, because we all feel that's the most important thing that the band is here for -- that God has put the band together. We want to be faithful to what He has shown us. We call it a ministry in that sense that we want to do everything the way the Lord wants us to do it."

In a day and age where gray is the color of choice for many, it's nice to see that there are still those who are hardcore in what they believe, say, and do. Look for The Blamed's sophomore release January 10. **HM**

* Definitions were taken from The New American Webster Handy College Dictionary, 1961.

Making A NOUVEAUX Start

By David Muttillo

This five-man band, originally from Michigan, has just completed their first American tour opening for Michael Sweet, as well as releasing its debut album, *Beginnings*, on Benson Records, so we thought it was time you hear from one of Christian music's newest acts -- Nouveaux.

CAN YOU GIVE US A BRIEF HISTORY OF NOUVEAUX?

"Kurt (Lehman -- bassist) and Steve (Ashley -- guitarist) had been in a choral group together from a long time ago, and they started the band," explains vocalist Paul Alan. "Eventually, they hired K.C. (Smothers) to play guitar, and I had a solo tape out and they asked me to play keyboards. Eventually, we got Brad (Angus) to play drums. It was a process of several years for us to come together. We've all been together now for pretty close to three years.

"When I joined, the primary thing we were involved with was a drug education program called 'Break Out.' We went to a number of different high schools in Michigan with the 'drug free' message. We spent about a year and a half with that program doing two or three high schools a month. We'd play a show in the morning at an assembly, then we'd play a full concert in the evening. That's where we spent most of our time -- as far as playing goes. Once we got done with the 'Break Out' program, we hired our management company out of Nashville -- Carpe Diem Artist Management -- and they started working on getting us a record deal at that point. That was about a year and a half ago now."

TALK TO US ABOUT SOME OF THE BAND'S MUSICAL INFLUENCES.

"Obviously, there are a lot of bands that we look up to. Someone might hear Def Leppard. They are a big influence of mine -- and a lot of the other guys too. Extreme is another. Anything that uses the big harmonic, melodic vocal hooks was probably an influence of ours. It's a style of music that we've always liked. That's primarily what someone is gonna hear when they hear the record. That's what's gonna distinguish NOUVEAUX from other people . . . we try to get as melodic as we can."

WHAT DO YOU DRAW UPON AS AN INFLUENCE LYRICALLY?

"Every song is a little bit different. Most all of our lyrics deal with situations we've gone through. I wrote the song, 'Some Things Never Change,' about the love of God. No matter how many times we run away from Him and leave His shelter -- willingly, knowingly -- He's still waiting for us. Like the story of the prodigal. It happens again and again. We leave and come back. And he's always there. That never changes about Him and His love. That's a song I wrote for myself, because it summed up my relationship with God at that point. The fact that He was faithful when I wasn't.

"The song, 'Hurts So Bad,' was the result of my breaking up with a girlfriend. We write about our experiences and so the songs cover a lot of different topics."

ON THE SONG, "UNITED WE STAND," THE BAND TALKS ABOUT THE PROBLEM WITH RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICA. WHAT DO YOU THINK WE NEED TO DO TO SOLVE THOSE PROBLEMS?

"I think basically what people need to do is get the chip off of their shoulder. Not any specific race, but it seems that before we even meet a person, before we ever get a chance to find out what someone's true motives are, we automatically assume that there's some amount of racism in how they are behaving. I don't think we are actually treating one another with the amount of love and respect that we should. It's going to take people being willing to accept other people for who they are."

WHO ARE SOME OF THE BANDS THAT YOU SEE AS THE UP AND COMING TALENT IN CHRISTIAN MUSIC?

"I like The Brave and their new album. Wes King is someone I have a lot of respect for -- for his playing and writing ability. I like PFR's ability. DC Talk, I really feel, is the best at their style of what they do -- both in comparison to other Christian artists and to non-Christians. They're putting out great stuff. This is just to name a few groups. I feel that we've got a lot to offer as well."

WHAT'S IT BEEN LIKE BEING OUT ON THE ROAD WITH MICHAEL SWEET?

"It's been great. We've learned a lot from the experience, because we're new. We're picking up a lot of things as far as our skill is concerned. One thing I've learned for myself is the need to surrender every day to God. If I don't completely surrender to God before I go on stage, the show isn't as good as it could've been."

HOW DID YOU END UP WITH ALL THE ENDORSEMENTS FROM PEAVEY, EPIPHONE, AND YAMAHA?

"We have a hard working manager. We sent tapes to some companies and they were willing to work with us, because they liked what we were doing."

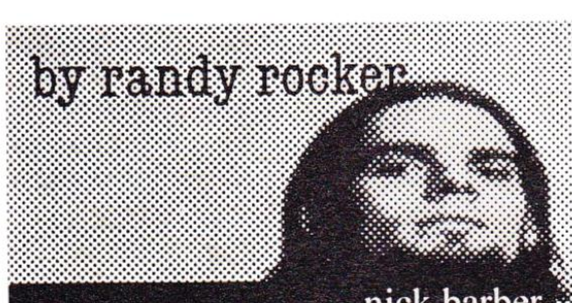
GIVE US YOUR MOST IMPORTANT FINAL THOUGHT.

"Seek the will of God with all of your heart and, once you know beyond a shadow of a doubt and feel complete peace about what you believe He's called you to do, lay everything else aside and do that. Run for the prize, because, if you do anything like Jonah, you'll be miserable. If you pursue God's calling, it will give you peace. He'll take care of you." **HM**

poor old lu . . .

. . . all pretty for heaven's metal

by randy rocker



nick barber

Adapting their name from the classic C.S. Lewis novel, *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, Seattle Washington's Poor Old Lu truly have their own stories to tell. Their 1993 debut, *Mindsize*, followed with a successful Cornerstone '94 performance and a video for the catchy alternative, groove rock song, "All Pretty For The T.V." Listen in as vocalist Scott Hunter and drummer Jesse Sprinkle talk with HM writer Randy Rocker about their second album, *Sin*, their fondness for early Stryper albums, and other things.

AS A YOUNG BAND, WHAT WAS IT LIKE FOR YOU TO RELEASE YOUR FIRST ALBUM?

"It was pretty interesting," replies Scott. "It was a strange experience going from local to national. When we had our demo, we would get letters from just around Seattle. When we released our album, we were getting letters from all over the world. It was strange to think that people could go into a store in Seattle to get our album, the same way they could get it in Chicago."

HOW DID YOU RESPOND TO YOUR NEW-FOUND ATTENTION?

"People may look at us as some big rock stars," says Scott, "but we're not. We're just normal people. We laugh and we cry. We have good days and we have bad days."

DID YOU GUYS GET A BETTER RESPONSE FROM *Mindsize* THAN YOU THOUGHT YOU WOULD?

"Actually," says Jesse, "it was pretty cool. We didn't expect a lot. We didn't expect to sell a lot in the alternative Christian market, but it did pretty well."

"Response went in different stages," adds Scott. "There were a lot of times when we felt like just another local band, but then you start reading a lot of great reviews on your album. I don't remember ever getting a bad review, which is more important than anything. People enjoyed our album consistently, and they felt it had integrity throughout the whole thing."

aaron sprinkle

HOW DID YOU LIKE MAKING A VIDEO?

"While we were making it," explains Scott, "it was hard to have fun. We were in California and the label wanted us to make a video. We had maybe a day or a day and a half to brainstorm some ideas, to work stuff out, and to get all the people ready. We shot a lot of it in one afternoon, and one night during an acoustic show at a Christian bookstore. Then, the next night, we finished it at four in the morning. It turned out a lot better for what we put into it than I thought it would."

HOW DID YOU WANT YOUR NEW ALBUM, *Sin*, TO BE DIFFERENT THAN *Mindsize*?

"Dirtier," explains Jesse, "not as in bad, but we wanted it to be sonically more raw. We wanted to capture our live sound a lot more. A lot of our aggressiveness wasn't really captured on the first one."

"I wanted a lot more intensity to come out of this album," adds Scott. "When I listen to Tears For Fears, they didn't really have screeching guitars or yelling vocals, but their songs were always intense. Even though my vocals are a lot more raw and there's a bit more screaming, that's not where the intensity comes from. It comes from the rawer, fuller sound and the way we recorded."

scott hunter

I HEARD YOU GUYS HAVE WIDE MUSICAL TASTES.

"Aaron, Nick and I have pretty similar musical interests," says Scott, "but Jesse's probably the musical freak. I've always been into the mid-80's kind of stuff I listened to in high school. I don't listen to the radio, I listen to old tapes -- The Cure, Tears For Fears, ThomasDolby. On the Christian side, I listen to Daniel Amos, Altar Boys, and Steve Taylor."

"I'm the musical reject," states Jesse. "I started listening to Stryper and Bloodgood, and then I liked the death metal stuff like Vengeance. I listen to anything from folk to rap to industrial."

ARE YOU GOING TO TRY AND TOUR TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW ALBUM?

"Our road experience is pretty limited," says Scott. "We got to play a show in Phoenix with Mortal. We played Cornerstone Festival, and we played in California. We also play quite a bit in the Northwest. Touring is going to be totally up to God. It's kind of complicated with our jobs and families. We'd love to get out there and just play a couple of month's of shows in a row."

"We want to tour really bad," admits Jesse, "but it's hard with families."

WHAT ELSE DOES THE BAND HAVE GOING ON?

"We're getting ready to release another CD. It's the demo that got us signed, called *Star Studded Superstep*. It's a rarity of ours now. It's got ten songs that we recorded, produced, and mixed ourselves, as well as a whole bunch of bonus tracks. We also want to record a six or seven-song EP in February or March."

jesse sprinkle

WHERE DO YOU SEE POOR OLD LU IN FIVE YEARS?

"That's the greatest question," says Jesse. "At this point, Poor Old Lu is kind of at a weird stage where people are starting to have other lives besides the band. To me, it's going really good right now, but we're very unsure of where God wants us to be in the future. We're just trying to figure out a bunch of stuff right now. I really hope that, in five years, we will have progressed and be more in tune with what God wants us to do. That's the only thing we're trying to do. I realize that God gave us this band and that we're enjoying it and that we're actually reaching people."

"It's hard to really know where we'll be in five years," adds Scott. "I think we'll all like to know that, in five years, we'll still be playing shows and making albums. It's hard to know whether we're ever going to be in this full-time, like some of the bands are right now. What I fear is discouraging people. Right now we're just in a transition phase, and a lot of stuff is really up in the air. A lot of us are sorting out things and prioritizing things. We're just happy to know that we're doing what God would have us to do."

HM

AMY WOLTER

SHOOTING FROM THE HEART

By Dan MacIntosh

When Rolling Stone recently devoted its cover story to the state of women in rock and all the problems associated with being female in a male dominated genre, it got me thinking about the endangered position of women in Christian rock. Take, for example, the recent "Sisters" project, which featured some of Christendom's best known ladies. Remember who was selected as the token female hard rocker? Wendi Kaiser, you say? Now, wasn't she a part of the Jesus Movement? And wasn't that a long, long time ago? And don't you think perhaps a few women have picked up electric guitars since then? This is not intended as a knock against Kaiser, since her positive impact upon Christian music is beyond question. But doesn't this strike anyone else as a rather obvious sin of omission?

How about Amy Wolter? You know, the former singer for the group Fighter, who was just released her first solo album, *Hit Me In The Heart*, for WAL. Here's someone who can hold her own with the best vocals of the Pat Benatar's and Margaret Becker's of the musical universe. Wolter doesn't appear on the cover of her album with a powder pink and snow white angelic glow on her face; but instead is pictured with her face turned away from the camera, and with her long black hair hiding her features. It's as if she's saying to us, "It's my music that deserves your attention, and not just my looks." (Wow! I hope I'm not beginning to sound like a representative of the National Organization for Women! I'm only talking about music here, not feminism!)

Anyhow, back to writing about music. Wolter is no revolutionary -- either in politics or music. Here is a simple, basic, hard rock sound that may not be new, but it is most certainly a rare commodity in today's modern Christian music scene.

Led by the experienced production hand of Caesar, and including members of the New Power Generation, which is Prince's (or whatever other name he's being called by this week) band, this album sounds like it might live up to the first word in its title, which is "Hit." She hasn't abandoned the rock side of her Fighter days, but she did want to reach out to a broader audience with this first solo album.

"It's a little more on the pop side," comments Wolter from her home in Iowa, "where, with Fighter, we felt we had a little more freedom to do a little harder rock. I wanted to be a little more accessible to the pop market, however, I do love singing rock. So, it's sort of in between the two."

In slipping comfortably from the rock to the pop side, and everywhere inside of these broad boundaries, Wolter is attempting to prevent herself as being typecast as just any one thing. "We kind of got in trouble with Fighter," explains Wolter, "because we got labeled as metal, because we had some songs that bordered on that; but then, on the other hand, we had some really nice ballads, so it was a little bit eclectic for some people." God's people may be a peculiar people, but sadly, they are almost never an eclectic people. They like music they can label and categorize just like they do with denominations. (Wow! I hope I'm not beginning to sound like a religious fanatic! I'm only talking about music here, not about Christian sects!)

In addition to being Wolter's first solo album, this record also marks the end of Fighter and the beginning of her solo career. "It started off to be just an extra project," relates Wolter, "and in the meantime the band decided to disband. A couple of the guys were married and had families, and it was hard on them. It was a hard decision. It wasn't something that was written in granite, saying, 'This is what you're supposed to do,' says God.

"It's kind of scary," says Wolter, when asked to describe her feelings about being a solo artist now. "It kind of took me by surprise. I was always just real content in a band situation." The great thing about bands is that each member gets to play a role he or she is comfortable with.

Not so in the solo world.

"Sean (Murphy) was always sort of the spokesman in the band (Fighter) that did the ministry time. He was great at it," Wolter enthuses. "But I'm not a real natural when it comes to being witty with the audience, or having the spur of the moment little thoughts. I have to plan out what I'm going to say, or I trip over my words. So, that's the kind of thing that makes me nervous.

"I guess I kind of do like the idea of the freedom of doing what you wanna do, and not having the rest of the band disagree with you," continues Wolter, laughing and looking on the brighter side of the solo fence. "That part excites me. There are a lot of things you can do quickly and efficiently, without having to go through that democratic process, and taking a vote on everything. This is just Jim (her husband) and I making the decisions." So, she lives in America, and yet she's against the democratic process. What gall! (Wow! I'm writing this on November 8th, Election Day, and I'm beginning to sound like a member of the League of Women Voters. But I'm only talking about music here, not politics!)

I mentioned to Amy the cover story I'd recently read in Rolling Stone about women in rock, and I wondered if she had encountered any of the difficulties associated with being one of the few genuine female rockers in Christian music. And, much to my surprise, I found out that Wolter is usually given the same respect that men receive. Even in the Fighter days.

In fact, when Fighter came to town, Wolter was the first person most promoters sought out. "Maybe someof that was because for most of that stint I was doing the bookings," recalls the empowered Wolter. "And I think that, because I was one of the lead singers, they kind of gravitate to whoever is the singer."

But didn't Wolter run up against any serious chauvinism? "Nope," she answers. "But then I'm not a feminist in any sense of the word, really. I guess if I were to encounter any blatant discrimination, I'd probably kick up a little bit, but I'm pretty old fashioned in that sense of the word." HM

RELEASED AND RATTLING CAGES

Barren Cross

"We knew we needed to be on the edge."

"**Barren Cross** has been out of service for a while, and I wasn't too sure how it was going to sound. Basically, coming out of the studio here with 90 percent of everything in the bag, I'm blown away. Their chops are still there. Their song writing is as strong as ever. I'm completely impressed with how they sound. It's classic Barren Cross with a 90's edge."

Michael Betts (owner of Rugged Records) created high expectations when he shared his opinions about Barren Cross' comeback recordings in last year's January/February issue of HM (#45). Now, a year later, everyone will have the opportunity to see if this ground-breaking metal band still has what it takes to *Rattle Your Cage*.

HM writer **Andrew Crump** had the privilege of talking with bassist Jim LaVerde about Barren Cross' new album as well as his expectations for the future of the band.

IS BARREN CROSS BACK AS A FULL-TIME BAND?

"That remains to be seen, because in the last five years we've all developed our lives. For instance, I've got my business, Ray (Parris) has got a full-time job, Steve (Whitaker) is a police officer, and Mike (Lee) is working up North. Our plan is to see what God wants us to do and watch Him unfold the whole thing. For me to do it full-time, God would have to clunk me over the head with a bowling ball pin. But, we're definitely going to be doing it part-time. We're going to be doing fly-in weekend dates for whoever will have us."

HOW DOES IT FEEL SEEING A NEW BARREN CROSS ALBUM OUT IN THE STORES?

"It feels great. I'll tell you a funny story about when I first saw the albums out in the stores. I saw this guy in the store while I was looking at the new Barren Cross album on the shelf. I don't know what came over me. I went, 'Wow!' The guy looks at me and says, 'Yeah, it's been a long time.' And I said, 'It sure has.' And he goes, 'Do you have any of their other albums?' And I'm like, 'Well, yeah, I've got all their albums.' He goes, 'What's your favorite one?' I said, 'I really like them all, but *Rattle Your Cage* is the best one.' I finally told him that I was in the band."

DID IT EVER CROSS YOUR MIND DURING THE RECORDING OF *Rattle Your Cage* THAT THE ALBUM MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC, BECAUSE BARREN CROSS IS ASSOCIATED WITH "HEAVY METAL," AND THAT STYLE OF MUSIC IS PERCEIVED AS MAYBE OUTDATED?

"Well, we definitely changed directions a lot, but not so much that we would lose our musical identity. We knew we needed to be on the edge. We needed to do what's happening today. We definitely took that into the studio and our rehearsals. I go to the clubs around here. I see what's popular. Metal is dead here. There's not really any heavy metal band. Heavy rock bands are kind of what's in right now. We tried to follow suit a little bit. We tried to do that, but we also tried to be ourselves. We wrote music that made us happy."

I THINK THE FANS WILL APPRECIATED THAT YOU HAVEN'T RADICALLY CHANGED. YOU STILL HEAR A LOT OF WHAT MADE BARREN CROSS "BARREN CROSS" IN THE MUSIC. I THINK THE FANS WILL ACCEPT THAT A LOT MORE THAN IF YOU CAME OUT SOUNDING LIKE NIRVANA.

"We definitely didn't have any intention of that. One of the reasons why Barren Cross remains the same is because we have stayed with the four original members."

HOW HAS BARREN CROSS BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THE SAME MUSICIAN LINEUP ALL THESE YEARS?

"I think it was just a miracle from the Lord. He began drawing us back together about a year and a half ago. We departed on bad terms. After Barren Cross was over, my decision was to never play with the band again. It just wasn't worth it. There was too much hurt involved. I didn't want to go through with it again. God softened all of our hearts. We came back together and we asked for forgiveness. If you're familiar with the song, 'Let it Go, Let it Die' -- that whole song deals with what we went through as a band.

"The attitude is different. We care for each other. We're not under the pressure of a management company breathing down our necks. We don't have a booking agent breathing down our necks. No one's forcing us to go on tour. It's created a good environment for the band just to relax, to have a good time with each other and to just get out there and spread the message that God is telling us to."

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS NEW ALBUM?

"We are going into this album and future albums with a different perspective in mind. We want to see our future records do a lot better than they've been doing. We would like to see a lot more money go behind the bands. We would like to see better turn outs at concerts. It all goes back to being able to support the family when the husband goes out on the road, so they don't have to constantly worry about the money situation. We're not out to make millions of dollars. That's not my concern at all. I would like to see musicians out there to be able and go outand make a good living at what they do and not have to worry about the finances.

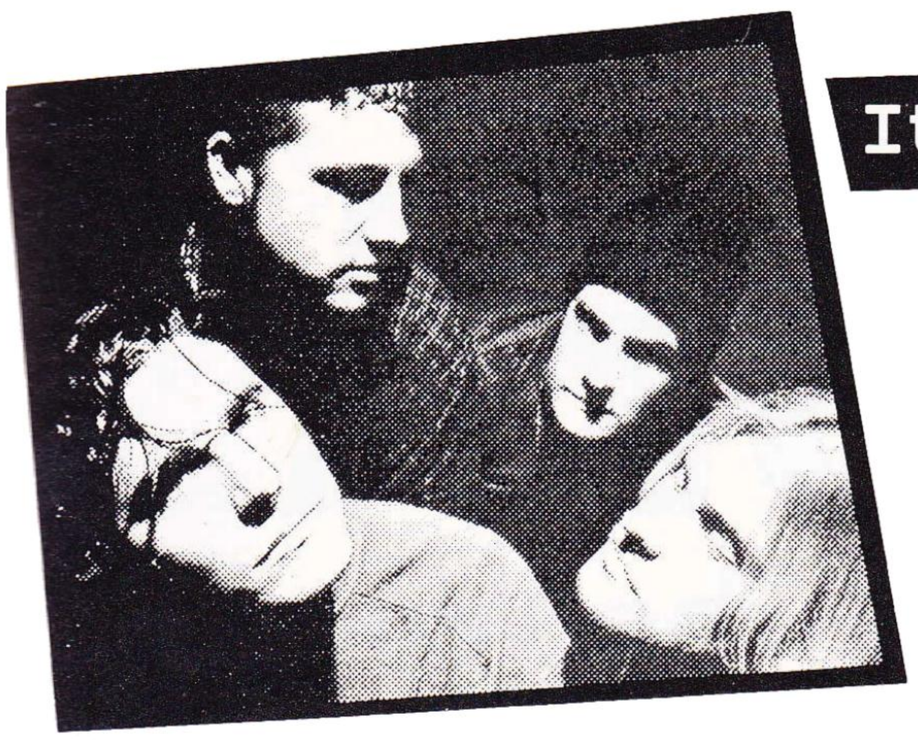
"Our goal for *Rattle Your Cage* is to, obviously, get out there to reach as many people as we can and to also sell more records. That's important to us. You're never going to make it full-time in this industry selling 25 to 30 thousand records. It's a hard truth to face, but we're trying to face it."

HOW WOULD YOU DEAL WITH SOMEONE WHO CONFRONTS YOU AND SAYS, "YOU'RE JUST OUT FOR THE MONEY! YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE?"

"I can only tell that person that there's no way someone can go out on the road and make $200 a week and expect to make it. My outlook, anyway, is that the most important issue is the kids out there -- to get the message out to the non-believer and to encourage the believer. But, we can't do a good job if there's not enough finances behind it. I would tell the person that would tell me that you have to walk two moons in my shoes before you can make a judgement upon me. Like I said before, I'm not out to make millions of dollars."

IT TAKES A LOT OF GUTS TO SAY WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

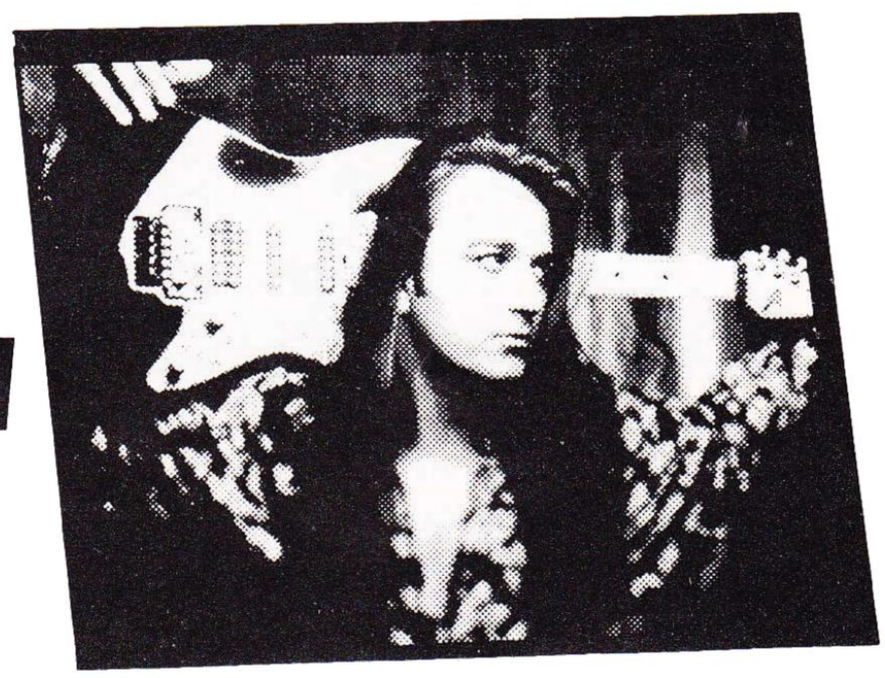
"I hope no one looks down on me because of that. If they do, then so be it. I'm not saying that we need to be this huge multi-million dollar mound of money. Let's just play our cards differently." HM



It's your music.

You live it.

Bring it home.



Ask your cable TV operator for it.

MUSIC℠

The last word in Music Television

© I.H.S. Photos

RED SEA

Stirs The Waters

By Jerry Wilson

One of the dangers of getting older is the fear of losing touch with the here and now. In a world that places so much emphasis on the immediate, it's easy to get caught up in wishing that "things" would be more like they used to be. The music people choose to listen to these days certainly reflects this tendency to live in the past where things might not have been any easier, but at least they were known quantities. 70's stations are the latest craze on radio, and the recent wave of nostaglic musical reunions -- The Eagles, Jimmy Page and Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin, etc. -- confirms the trend. Older may not necessarily be better, but it's certainly back in style.

All this leads to the sea... Red Sea, that is. Although a brand new band that has just released its debut album, *Blood*, on Rugged, Red Sea's sound is firmly rooted in heavy blues, the kind of music that seemingly just about everyone stopped making the moment their sequencers and digitizers arrived in the mail. However, the album is far more than a nostalgia trip. *Blood* is a searing, serious outbreak of pure rock 'n' roll power, the kind of album that reminds you why you fell in love with this music in the first place. HM writer Jerry Wilson recently talked to Robyn Kyle Basauri, lead singer for this ensemble, to find out more about the band and why it would choose to walk down a road all too seldom trod these days.

Basauri, who first came to public attention through his work on the two Sanctuary Praise albums and P.K. Mitchell's *All Hail The Power* plus a stint as lead singer with Die Happy, relates that following the breakup of Die Happy, he had originally gone to Michael Betts, the head of Rugged, with the idea of doing a solo record. That idea evolved into Red Sea through Basauri's friendship with guitarist Chris Howell, formerly of Fear Not. As Basauri puts it, "Chris had always been someone I knew I wanted to work with. We both went to the same church, and we both loved the blues; we'd always talk blues whenever we'd get together. So, it was a natural thing for us to get together."

He goes on to explain, "The blues is an organic kind of music. It's natural. We really didn't think about the sound when we started. Something that's worth mentioning is how heavily involved Greg Chaisson, who was the bassist in Badlands, which is one of my all time favorite bands, was with this record. He's a big blues fan as well, so when you add his influence it was obvious where we were going to go. We wrote what we liked, and it shows."

The band does face a certain problem of logistics, however. Basauri currently lives and works a day job in Utah, while Howell is based in Nashville. How do they overcome the thousand miles or so of real estate that separate them? Basauri replies, "We're in contact at least three times a week. And, like I said earlier, we're more than just partners in a band. We're really good friends. So we'd be in contact anyway. Also, up until the point in time when the album was released, we didn't have that much to do anyway."

The situation is scheduled to change in the near future. The album is now in stores, and at the time of this article, Basauri and Howell were finishing plans to audition a rhythm section in order to make the band complete. The band will be based in Nashville, and Basauri will be making the move out there eventually.

He is chomping at the bit to get on the road as soon as possible. "I know people know about us from the various magazine articles, but they don't know us yet. We're anxious to get out there so everyone can find out who we are as a band. That, and we want to talk to people."

It helps to have something to say when you talk to people, and Red Sea has plenty. *Blood* is loaded with simple but not simplistic lyrics dealing straight on with basic subjects: heaven, hell, wasted lives detailed in powerful brush strokes. Basauri makes the observation, "When I first started writing the lyrics for the album, I had the thought of a concept album in mind. That didn't work out, although we might try it later."

He goes on to add, "Something that can be hard at times is trying to be objective and look at what you're doing when you're in the middle of the creative process. Now that I can sit back and listen to the album, I hear things I didn't notice when I was making it. Some of them a re things I wish I could change, and some of them are things that make sense now, but didn't make sense at the time. That's God working in this. I'm not saying that as any kind of ego thing -- 'Oh look, what a great servant I am; God's speaking through me.' I'm always in prayer, asking Him to enlighten me to write through the Holy Spirit. He's the best author I know!"

What would Basauri like for people to get out of the new album? "I want people to listen to the album and think, 'Man, this is a great band.' I don't want anyone to say, 'They're pretty good for being Christians.' I want the band to be accepted at face value as a band. Also, I want people to hear the message. It's a deep one; we're covering some heavy territory. I want people to know that I am for real and I write what I feel. Finally, I'd like for people to think of us as a friend."

HM

VELOCIPEDE

Sanity, Songs, & Salvation

By David Jenison

First heard with a song on the *Demolition II* compilation, Velocipede has followed up with a debut album on R.E.X. Records. Heaven's Metal writer David Jenison recently caught up with Dann Gunn, vocalist/guitarist for this two-piece hard rock outfit, at his mechanic job at a garage in Tennessee. In between interruptions from annoying customers, the conversation went something like this.

HOW LONG HAS VELOCIPEDE BEEN TOGETHER?

"The drummer that did the record with me is an old friend of mine," says Dann. "We've been playing together now since April. I'd been working with another drummer here in town, but he had an early mid-life crisis, packed up, and went to Knoxville. So, as far as playing together, we really didn't go back that far. But, I've been fooling with the two-man idea for about two years, and before that I was singer in a four-person Ramones-style punk band called The Square."

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH R.E.X. RECORDS?

"I knew Tyler (Bacon) back when he was a big college stud at MCSU. I went to the same college for a while. I'd see him at church sometimes, and he'd ask me what was going on with my music. We ended up getting a song on *Demolition II*, and Tyler really liked it, so he called me up and wanted to do a full album."

WHAT'S YOUR SONGWRITING PROCESS?

"Many of the songs I write are made up of fragments from other songs I wrote that didn't work. Most of ideas come, though, w hen I'm not trying very hard. I'll have an idea for a melody, and I'll put words to it so I won't forget, and later I realize I can't think of the song without those words. I like to walk a lot, which is great for thinking, and I write most of my songs then.

"Concerning my lyrical process, I like what Michael Been from The Call does. He's not a guy who would sing about how his car broke down. Rather, he'd sing about the burden of life. I tend to like songs that are phrased in that way -- take something specific and paint it in broad enough terms that it will mean different things to different people. I try to be careful when I word things. For example, the words are not conversational sounding. I may actually be overly careful with my word selections. I may have missed out on some really great things because the word didn't sound cool enough to me."

WHAT KIND OF SPIRITUALITY DO YOU SEE COMING THROUGH YOUR MUSIC?

"The whole reason I wanted to get involved with music was because of 80's bands like Undercover, DA, and Altar Boys. Those were groups in which the message was also the understood part. In the first band I was in, it was always important to be clear with what I was saying. We always made sure there was clear Christian content.

"When I moved into doing this, I decided I was tired of writing songs and trying to make everything work out by the third verse. I have a pretty dark personality sometimes, so I decided just to write songs. For me, it's gone from 'I'm a Christian songwriter . . . here's a good verse, let's make a song about it,' to trying to put down on paper what I'm feeling and thinking, and balance that against the fact that I'm a Christian and what that means.

"I would like someone to listen to us and not cringe because of some goofy metaphor for Jesus. However, I really want to be approached by someone who asks if I'm Christian and what it means."

THERE'S A SENSE OF ANGER IN THE MUSIC. WHAT MAKES YOU ANGRY?

"Life makes me angry. Life is made up of these 'things' that are ridiculous, redundant, and useless. We spend our whole lives doing things like working jobs that seem to be going nowhere. Just the mechanics of living irritates me, because I don't think people were built for this. I think we were built for a spiritual depth and closeness with each other that we are nowhere near. It angers me to live in a way that seems to counteract this. It's that kind of constant dissatisfaction with life that makes an angry young man. For me, there's a real desire to find some grace or something that makes sense in it all.

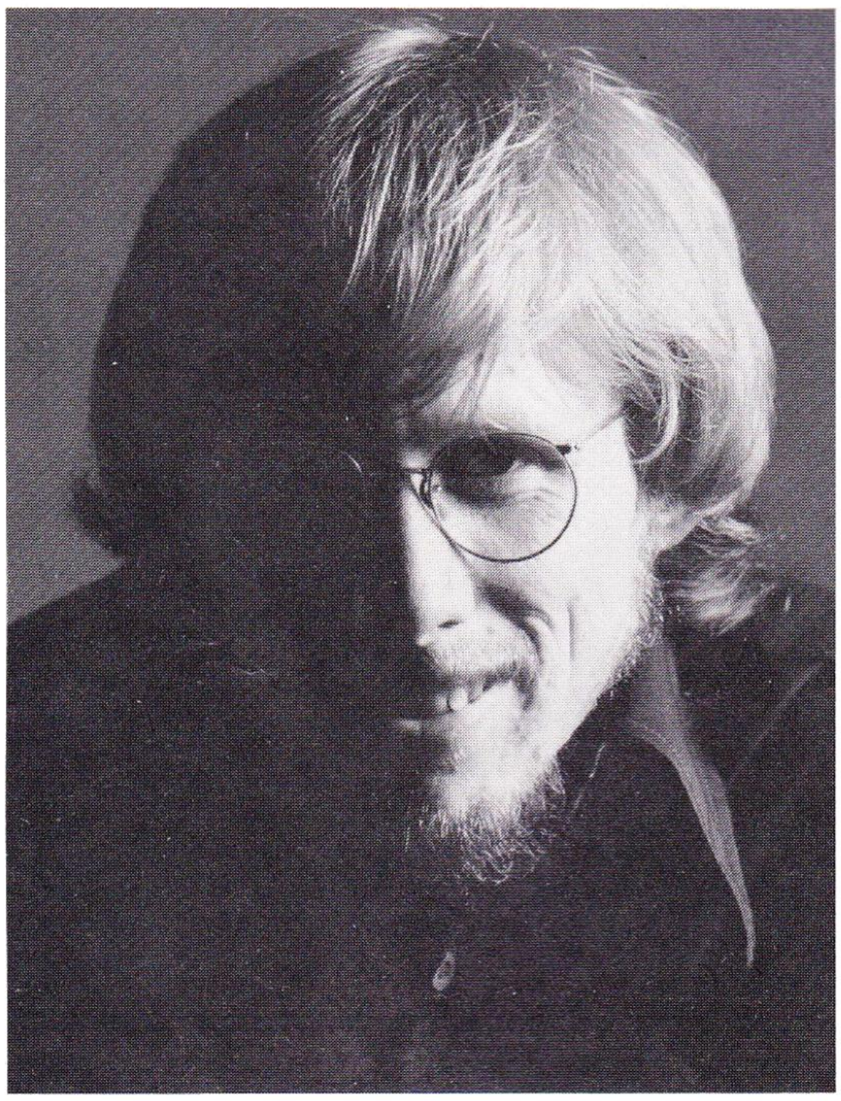
"The church angers me -- it's a waste of time. I don't mean completely. I'm saying, the church itself has become a self-perpetuating thing. The people in the church aren't necessarily sitting there thinking about how they can be ineffectual and neutral, but it's just becoming that. It's not a place where people can go to be comforted or to go to talk to someone when something terrible happens. It's just become another American subculture. I'm saying this being raised the son of a Southern Baptist minister and living in the Bible belt all my life. For me, it seems the older I get the less the organized church has anything to do with society. There's no interaction with people on a level that's credible. They just want to be better than or separate from, and it annoys me, because it shouldn't be that way. And, if you ask me what I've done about it, all I can say is that I've been really angry about it (laughs). I'm trying not to be that way. It's a theme that's not uncommon in Christian music, I guess.

"I'm not talking about anything that big either -- just the day to day transactions with other human beings. I remember reading something Mike Knott once said, 'I just think Christians should be nice.' It's as simple as that.

"I have no idea what happens with any of the superchurches, but I'm familiar with lots of small sizechurches in small towns, and there's just nothing happening there. I worked with youth for years, and I even thought I might go into youth ministry full-time. I'd labor and labor and labor trying to teach something spiritual, and at the end of it, all I get is, 'Does God care if I have long hair? Can I pierce my ear?' It's just a mirror of what they grow up in. People care so much about surface issues and so little about depth."

HM

"(I) put down on paper what I'm feeling and thinking, and balance that against the fact that I'm a Christian and what that means."



PRODUCER PROFILE: SAM TAYLOR

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN PRODUCING MUSIC?

"Whew! I don't know exactly how I can answer that question. If I could take the literal approach, I guess it would be: back when I was in jr. high school, back in the mid-60's, my brother, who was seven year's older than me, had a band that was a recording group. He would go into the studio and come back with these recordings and tell me the process and what was going on. He got me interested, so by the time I was about a junior in high school, I was fortunate enough to go into the studio to record, and I was the only one in the band that understood the process enough to sort of go into the control room. As a result of that I bought a sound-on-sound tape recorder and started doing it myelf at home. And then any opportunity I would get to go into the studio, I would go in as a player or to help somebody else record their material -- whether it be an actual studio or at home.

"From that standpoint, I guess, that's when I started producing. I was sort of the guy that understood that from a technical point of view and also how to arrange the music by virtue of a orchestral background ever since the fifth grade -- playing brass instruments and things like that. Then I got established in college in brass and piano. Part of my responsibilities in my fellowship was to arrange material for the brass group in the wind ensemble and also the jazz studio group. Part of the responsibility also was recording, so I got a chance to be involved in that. Then, I left college after one year and went on the road with a guy who had a record deal with ABC Records. He was sort of a folk rock singer. I played piano for him and got to go into the studio as a result of that and experiment and do demos and work on his albums. That's pretty much when I cemented the fact that I wanted to produce, and enjoyed that side of the music part as well as the performing.

"I had moved to Nashville at that point, and I would go in and do demos for publishing companies -- demos of the songs the songwriters would write, I would be asked to come in and play on them. A lot of my friends were writers and they asked me to produce them for them. And so, finally, I gathered up enough money and found a particular artist in Nashville that I really liked. It was a rock singer. I just decided one day, 'I'm going to produce this,' and so I took him into the studio and hired all the people and wrote out the string parts and hired the best studio and the best engineer and paid through the nose and came up with this really great demo that nobody ever heard. But, that was probably the official first time. I went back and finished my college degree, and then went back into music full-time at that point.

"So, that's a long answer."

IT DEFINITELY GIVES HOPE TO THOSE WHO ARE YOUNG AND INVOLVED IN THEIR HIGH SCHOOL BAND, WHO MAYBE WONDER IF THEY'RE GONNA BE A NERD ALL THEIR LIVES OR IF THEY'LL EVER BE A ROCK STAR.

"Yes. Well, I'm definitely a nerd, I guess. I'm not a rock star -- if that's the only two choices (laughs). If you want a question of hope: I actually didn't produce my first commercial record until 1988. So, it was 20 years after my first real experience in the studio before I actually had an opportunity to produce a record that people put out for sale and heard. That would have been the first King's X record (*Out Of The Silent Planet*)."

WHAT DO YOU LISTEN FOR IN FINDING A BAND TO WORK WITH?

"Well, I listen to things that are going to change my life, my soul, my heart, my mind; and that are interesting to my ear. And that move me -- that I can sit down and sort of take me out of time and space."

WHAT WILL YOU TELL A BAND WHO APPROACHES YOU ABOUT SOMETHING AND YOU DON'T FEEL THAT OR DON'T FIND THAT? WHAT DO YOU SAY TO 'EM?

"Well, I guess the first thing, if they really want to know what I think, I ask 'em what they're trying to do, and why, because you can find out very quickly if someone had an agenda other than creating art. Art may be secondary, or it may not even be a part of their thing; or it may be what they think they're trying to do, but they really view it more as a political agenda or a religious agenda of some sort. I try to find out what their motivation and their objective is. If I find that their objective is to create art and it's something in them that they have to do, and that they're willing to sort of go after their own standard and just try to be as good as they can be, and as creative as they can be, then I basically challenge them to take a look at what they're doing and ask why they're at the place they are. It could be that they're there because just of artistic limitations and limited creative ability; or it could be that they're at that place because they haven't been willing to challenge one another and take some risks.

"Sometimes those risks are going to end up making it so no one cares about what you're doing, because they're going to say, 'It's not commercial,' or 'We're not interested,' or whatever. And then you've got to ask yourself, 'What's the objective?' Because the objective may be to get a record deal; or to keep your record deal; or to pay your bills. If that's your objective, then that's not art. It's a very, very difficult thing to create art and live in our world -- especially America, because this is a status symbol nation. It's often been said, 'There's no middle class in the music business.' You're either very, very poor, or you're very, very rich. To maintain a middle class existence is extremely difficult. I would say that a lot of people doing that have probably sold out along the way to a certain degree, or have figured out a way to create a standard that other people are measuring things by, and it just hasn't popped wide open for the artist yet, but it would if they stayed the course."

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PRINCIPLES THAT YOU APPLY TO ALL THE ROCK BANDS YOU PRODUCE?

"Well, I have to believe in them first as people -- that they are being true to themselves. As far as wherever they are in their search in life. That they're . . . If they're not a Christian, and haven't come to that place in their life, then at least they are searching and that I believe . . . I have to believe that they are open to the precepts of Christianity, and that they are open to dialogueing about it on a legitimate basis -- not a patronizing basis. And that they don't have preconceived ideas that have already ruled that out. Artistically, I have to believe that they are . . . this is going to sound strange, to talk about a musician this way -- but I have to believe that they are willing to turn a deaf ear to outside influences. Not necessarily musical outside influences, 'cause I think we're all influenced by everything we hear and like. But outside influences that are only there to try and manipulate them into becoming something else for an alterior motive -- such as going back to the whole aspect of saying, 'If you do this, you'll get a record deal,' and 'If you do that, you'll get a tour,' and 'If you do this, you'll be on MTV.' I don't like that, so I try to find people who are willing to almost die to and sacrifice what the music business has to offer, and is willing to put it all at risk so that they can do it on the standards and terms that they can set for themselves."

WOW.

"So, consequently, I don't take on a lot of projects!" (laughs) **HM**

Sam is currently starting his own label. Interested artists can send material to Sam c/o HM, POB 17367, Austin TX 78760.

IN CONCERT!
JESUS FREAKS
MORTIFICATION
7 PM, FEB. 21
RAMADA INN NORTH
I-35 & Rundberg
Austin, Texas
For information: (512) 264-2994

Looking ahead
to Issue #52
(March/April '95):
Sometime Sunday
Everdown
Rob Walker
What Extreme Sez
Strongarm
Tamplin
John Schlitt
Indie Bands
Rad Rocker's
& more!

Michigan Mosh 95
May 27-28, 1995
Sparta High School
Sparta, Michigan

Mainstage
Tourniquet
Deliverance
Crashdog
Strongarm
P.O.D.
Nonpoint Factor
Crimson Thorn
Junno Janai
Breath Of Life
Engineering Morons
Cephas
Crimson Glow
Infinitia
External Decease
Sanctified Glory Mountain Revival Family

Acoustic
Glenn Kaiser
The Crossing
Jason Underground
Ed Englerth
E.M.U.
Glorious Thunder
Blues Grass Band

Speakers
Jerry Fennell
Mark Hodges
Steve Reid

$20.00 per ticket/all event
checks payable to "Michigan Mosh"

Michigan Mosh Festival
P.O. Box 325
Grandville, MI 49468-0325

charge your tickets!
toll free 1-800-521-0290

for more information
call 810-773-3361
(for business: 616-245-4338)

to obtain a promotional video for Michigan Mosh 94, send $6.00 to the above address ($8/Canada, $13/world).

What Megadeth Sez:

photo by Richard Avedon

Left to Right: Nick Menza, Dave Mustaine, Marty Friedman, David Ellefson

HEY NICK! HOW YA DOING?

"Hey! How's it going?"

PRETTY GOOD. I'M JUST LISTENING TO YOUR ALBUM HERE. COOL MACHINE GUN DRUMMING AT THE END OF "RECKONING DAY." I LIKE THE DRUM SOUND ON "ADDICTED TO CHAOS" TOO.

"Yeah, 'Addicted...' has got one of my favorite drum tones on it. You know, a lot of those takes are like first takes. We went in and we kept 'em, because they were so spontaneous and have the right energy on 'em. We couldn't have played 'em any better than that if we would've played the song ten times. That's really the vibe on this record. It's like most of those takes are first takes. 'Train of Consequences' is a first take. 'Addicted to Chaos' is a first take. I think 'Victory' is a first take. 'Killing Road.' I think 'Reckoning Day,' I think we played it twice.

"I overdubbed all those toms at the end (of 'Reckoning Day'). I did like four tracks of floor toms. I was watching that movie, *Gettysburg*, and all these drum dudes are marching with the soldiers in front of 'em and the whole line of guys drops, but the drummers keep marching and they're like playing this cadence. I'm thinking to myself, '(bleep) that'd be a rad part.' I wanted to have cannons going off. (laughs) Those guys thought I was crazy. I said, 'Dude, it's a total war song!' I wanted to call it something like 'Trumpets of Violence.' Mustaine wasn't into it. He said, 'No, dude. That's not happening. I don't want it to have violence in it.' Then we came up with 'Reckoning Day,' which I thought was really cool. I had the idea of having the music fade out at the ending and have the drums keep going. It came out really (bleep). That's one of my favorite songs on the record."

HOW DID YOU GUYS ACCOMPLISH DOING THE FIRST TAKE THING?

"You know, we rehearsed for a few months, working on the songs, and they really changed from day to day. We kept elaborating on them to make 'em different. When we actually got into the studio, we had a three take rule. If we didn't get the song in three takes, we wouldn't play it again that day. That was pretty much the vibe. After listening to a couple of days of tracks and hearing the difference between the first take and the third take, there was no comparison. Every time we played a song, the first time we played it, whether there was mistakes in it or not, that had the best vibe on it. Then we really got in that mindset. 'Okay, we're only gonna play it once.' Granted, there's some on there we had to play a few times, but it was that mentality to go in there and keep the spontaneity on the (bleep) and not keep going over it and over it. On *Countdown*... I did all my drum tracks by myself. Then Junior came in and recorded the bass. Then the guitars went on and everything went on in its perfect perspective place. We set out to make that album that way. This album was totally live. All four of us went to tape at the same time. We all jammed together at the same time. Granted, the percussion on there is overdubbed and the vocals are overdubbed and the solos are overdubbed, because we couldn't do that live. But all the rhythms are totally live. That's what really makes this album different than our previous albums. It has much more of a live, raw feel on it. There's a lot of warmth on this album."

WHY THE WAIT BETWEEN ALBUMS?

"Well, we came off tour last July, and we were pretty tired, so we just took the rest of the year off and started up in January. It took us about six months, because we were building a studio in Arizona that Max Norman had designed. It has since then been torn down and is on its way to L.A. and being built in L.A. now again. We'll be the only band to have recorded in it. We had it inside a warehouse. It took about three or four months to construct the whole thing and get it down and in that time we were doing a lot of the pre-production and writing of the music. Then, when we actually got in there, it was about two or three months of making the record. Now here we are, sitting here, waiting for it to come out on Halloween."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SONG ON THE RECORD, AND WHY?

"Umm. My favorite song is probably 'Train of Consequences,' cause it's got a really funky drum groove on it. That was one of my favorites from the very beginning when we had all the rhythm tracks done and none of the juice was on it yet. I just listened to it and said, 'Yeah, this is my best drumming song. It's got a really cool drum groove on it.' I just like that song. It's really moving. It's got a killer groove and it is the first single off the record. I didn't purposely pick it because it's the single. I liked it even before. I think Dave really liked it too. Dave had taken me aside and said, 'Dude, this is one of your best drumming songs on the record.' I said, 'Yeah, it's pretty cool. I'm really digging it.' So, yeah, I would probably be partial to 'Train...' I like 'Reckoning Day' a lot too. We just played the other night in New York City. We did a 'Night of the Living Megadeth' concert for Halloween that they're gonna air. We played nine songs. Some of the kids that were there, they had never heard 'Reckoning Day,' and when we cranked it up, they started pogoing. The whole audience was like bouncing up and down. I'm thinking, '(bleep) yeah!

This is the (bleep) right here!' It was cool. It went over real well."

HOW DOES THE ATTITUDE THAT "GRUNGE IS IN/METAL IS OUT" AFFECT YOU?

"Not at all. It doesn't affect me in any way, because grunge has no bearing on our careers or what we do. We're basically unaffected by what the music scene is around us. We dictate what the music scene is, basically, because we make the music that we wanna make. We would never conform to rap or grunge or alternative or any of that, because that's where the bandwagon that everyone's on now. Megadeth has been around long enough now . . . we're like an icon. When people hear our music, they're gonna know it's Megadeth music. You can call it heavy metal, thrash metal, death metal, black metal, this metal, that metal. Dude, it's just rock and roll. If it's good music, people are gonna like it. If it's not... That's one (bleep) up thing about the music business: all the categories that they have for all these different styles of music. It's all the same (bleep), man. We're all playing the same instruments. Granted, everybody's got different tones on them and everyone has different influences and styles.

"We're definitely not influenced by the contemporaries. We're influenced by our peers that we grew up listening to. The real big bands. When I say the real big bands, I'm talking like Led Zeppelin -- bands that have made many albums and many different styles of music. I could see us in the future being very different than we are now. If you look at our first album and you look at *Youthanasia*, each one of these albums tells a story of where we're at. Basically, what I think is going to happen now is this album's going to come out and we're going to really swing the doors open for other bands to come into this new realm for heavy music...cause it's still heavy, man. When people tell me that they think the album's commercial, or accessible or cohesive, or 'You guys have matured,' and all this kind of stuff, I'm like, 'Thanks. That's great.' Everyone's entitled to their opinion. If your opinions didn't matter, then neither would mine. That's the cool thing about the world -- everyone's gonna have an opinion and everyone's gonna get a different vibe when they hear this record. But this is where we're at right now. This is like another snapshot of Megadeth in time. These are the kinds of songs that we wrote. We didn't set out to, 'Okay, we need to do this style of music,' or 'We need to write a song that we think people are going to like.' We made music that we wanted to write; and we always make music like that. We never let the record companies tell us, 'Well, you should do this,' or 'You should do that.' This is us. This album has . . . we spilled our souls on *Youthanasia*."

IN THE THANK LIST, GOD IS THANKED FIRST ON THIS ALBUM. IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THERE TO THANK GOD FOR?

"Thank God for letting us still be here; for letting us still be alive. For letting people be into our music still. It's not like, 'Thank God,' because we're a religious band. We're very spiritual guys. Everyone has different beliefs. It's not like, 'God in the church.' It's like, 'God in you.' It's like, 'Thank God.' It's just a matter of speaking as such. As you see at the bottom, I thank UFO's and the alien presence. I thank the elements on the planet for letting us succeed and be successful. Our group has been around for almost ten years now. You've seen all these bands that have all this fly-by-night success and they're here today and gone later today. We're still here. We've gone through some hellish, hellish torment in our career, and we've been on a roller coaster ride from day one. It's like, 'We're still here. We are a victory.' That's what the song 'Victory' is about. It's like a discography of Megadeth and what's happened to us. It's like, you know what? Through all the (bleep), through all the crap, we're still a victory. We're still here making good music. Thank God."

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO DAVE MUSTAINE MADE SOME COMMENTS IN RIP MAGAZINE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE AND PRIORITY OF GOD IN HIS LIFE NOW AND HOW HE'D GIVEN UP DRUGS, ETC. LATER ON, A WRITER WROTE IN A LETTER TO EDITOR SECTION, AND HE WAS REAL ANGRY THAT DAVE TALKED ABOUT RELIGION IN AN INTERVIEW IN A ROCK MUSIC MAGAZINE. WHAT ROLE DO YOU THINK A MAN'S FAITH SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT PLAY IN HIS ART?

"You know what? You have to be true to yourself and believe in yourself, and not give a (bleep) about what anyone else thinks, because if you start trying to contrive your being on behalf of the way people view you, then you're basically just a puppet. You're a paper mache poser, doing what you think society dictates. Like I told you before, we've always been the kind of band who's done what we wanted to do. We have a lot of integrity. We have a lot of spirituality in us, because we believe in ourselves. It's like, you know what? I can't speak for Dave. Dave is Dave. Dave can't speak for me, because I'm me. That's really . . . To each his own. Hey! That guy's entitled to his own opinion.

"The face that I wear is who I am, because I love music. I love to play music. I love to make music, and I like to see people get happy from it. I like bringing joy to people when they listen to our music. These songs are for you, man. We made this record for the people, for our fans. We're on the same level as our fans. We're not up in the clouds. We're not walking ten feet off the ground like we're rock gods. We're Megadeth, and we make thismusic for people to listen to. We make it because we love it. It's like, 'We've gotta get up there and play the (bleep) everyday. If we make something that we're, like half-(bleeping), or we're doing it to put on this face that we think you want to see us as, then it's bull(bleep), and you're just another contrived band. I see all these bands, man, that are nowhere. They have nothing to say, they have nothing to play, and the people that don't know the difference see them all the time, so they think that this is the (bleep). They don't know any better. If you're not a musician, then you really have no insight into what music is about. Granted, there are a handful of people that aren't musicians that know about the business and know about bands, but when it boils right down to it, there's a lot of (bleep) music out there that's getting recognition, and there's very few good music that is getting the recognition. I know bands that people have never even heard of that (bleepin') destroy, that rock, that should be on the charts, that should be on MTV, but they're just not. Don't ask me why. That's just the way the scene works. That's the way the business works. Fortunately, we've surpassed and we've lasted through all the crap, and we're still making records. I think we'll still continue to make records as long as we can, as long as it makes us happy."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT JESUS?

"How do I feel about Him? What kind of question is that?"

IT'S JUST A QUESTION.

"How do I feel about Jesus? Jesus is fine. I don't really think about Him that much. I have my own beliefs. To talk about 'em in an interview about my record is, like, pointless. You know, because you might disagree, and there might be other people out there that disagree. Like I told you, I said I'm a spiritual person. I do believe in God, and that's all that really needs to be said."

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIS CLAIM TO BE "THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE, NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER BUT THROUGH HIM?"

"You know what? I don't condone that. I don't condone organized religion in any way. You have to believe in what you believe in and be a good person in the world, and don't (bleep) anyone else over. That's what life is about -- being real, being honest, being truthful."

SO, DO YOU THINK THAT CLAIM WAS LIKE A BLATANT LIE OR DO YOU THINK IT'S MADE UP?

"No. I just don't think anything

about it. I really have no opinion on it. I have absolutely no opinion."

OFTEN TIMES ALBUM COVER ARTWORK IS SOMETIMES PURPOSEFUL, AND OTHER TIMES AN AFTER-THOUGHT. THE FRONT COVER IS A HEAVY IMPRESSION OF, I ASSUME, HOW OUR COUNTRY IS HANGING ITS YOUNG MEN OUT TO DRY, BASICALLY SCREWING 'EM OVER AND BASICALLY KILLING 'EM. WHAT IS THE THOUGHT BEHIND THE CHRIST FIGURE BEHIND THE CD JEWEL BOX?

"Umm. That's actually from the 'Crown of Worms' single. It's a song that Dave wrote with the singer from Diamond Head. The singer, Sean Harris, had come to him with some lyrics that were called 'Crown of Worms,' and Dave re-worked it and that was just the t-shirt concept that we had. To have a Jesus-type looking guy with a Megadeth shirt on with the crown of worms around his head. I guess you could call it the 'bittersweet whatever.' The song is very self-explanatory when you listen to it. 'I present you this crown of worms' is what the chorus says in it.

"The artist who did our cover, he came up with a lot of the imagery for this album. When we told him the *Youthanasia* title, he pretty much took the ball and ran with it and came back with this imagery for us. The chorus in there is about that: 'We are the damned of all the world, with sadness in our hearts. The wounded of the wars, we've been hung out to dry.' I mean, that cover is basically depicting the youth of the world that's being born into poverty, into death, into hunger, and they're basically being born with no life. That cove is a very surreal, sanctuary-type place, where these kids go and this lady is hanging them out to dry, so they can live their life. It's not meant to be a negative thing. Obviously, it's a very deep looking cover, and everyone that looks at it is going to think something different about it. I've seen people become very offended by it. I've seen other people become very intrigued by it, and go, 'What does this mean?' I go, 'How does it make you feel?' It's a brilliant piece of art."

YEAH, IT REALLY IS.

"The babies are not really being hung by their feet. They were laid down on a piece of glass and shot up through the bottom of it. If you turn the album cover upside-down and look at it, you can see how the babies were superimposed on there. Those are real babies. There's about seven or eight of them, and then they're all superimposed all the way down through. The concept about it is definitely the lyrical imagery for the title track, *Youthanasia*. Hugh Syme really did a good job on it. I think that cover's going to win some awards."

AS FAR AS YOUR PHILOSOPHY OF "EVERYBODY HAS THEIR OWN THING, AND NOTWANTING SOMEONE TO SHOVE SOMETHING DOWN ANOTHER PERSON'S THROAT." DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE SOMETIMES THAT ATTITUDE CAN BE TAKEN TOO FAR, WHERE SOMEBODY WHO THINKS ANYTHING GOES, AND THEY LASH OUT AT SOMEONE WHO'S PUSHING WHAT THEY BELIEVE OR EXPRESSING WHAT THEY BELIEVE... THAT THIS IS A FORM OF REVERSE CENSORSHIP?

"Yeah. I think there's so much censorship in the United States that it's stupid. We've got freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of religion. All those things are lies, because we don't have that. We don't have freedom of speech. We don't have freedom of press. We don't have freedom of religion. Everyone is trying to dictate exactly how things should be run, so the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, that's (bleep) that isn't even worth the paper that it's (bleepin') written on. We're slowly . . . all those things are being taken away from us.

"As far as Megadeth goes, we don't (bleepin') care. We say exactly what we want to say. We write about the truth always, and most of our topics are reality. If people choose to turn their heads and look the other way, that's fine. You know what? The message is there. It's clear. It's in black and white in the print. That's why we put our lyrics on the record, so people can read it. These songs are about you. They're about everyone. They're about anyone who cares to take a look at it. You can read into it anyway you want. You can read into the negative. You can read into the positive. Myself? I think all these songs are very positive.

"'Youthanasia?' Dude, that's what's happening in the world right now. People have no idea how many children are being born and live for about a couple of weeks and they're dead. Does anyone care? (Bleep) no! They don't care. All they care about is drugs, money, and guns. It's a sad state of affairs. I think we've always been the type of band that has been a sign of the times. We write about the (bleep) that's going on. We keep up on the news, we read. We're very intelligent. We don't just write about sex, drugs, and rock and roll, and the devil. Those are obvious things. It's been done so many times, it's like, 'Man, come on! Write about something cool. Write about something that's going to touch someone.' You know, 'Family Tree' is a very, very intense song. It's about child abuse and incest. It happens to a lot of people, and people just try to shut that out. They don't want to know about it. They're like, 'Why would you write a song about this?' And we're like, 'Because it's happening! There's a lot of (bleepin') sick people in the world. Maybe somebody will get the message in that song and they won't let it happen to 'em anymore. Maybe it'll have some effect in some way.'

"We're not messengers of destiny. We're not anything like that. We're not trying to have a concept here. This is just what we choose to write about. There's a lot of diversity on this record. 'Addicted to Chaos' is another song. I told you about 'Victory.' 'Black Curtain' is about a guy who's having a nightmare and can't wake up until the black curtain falls and the sun comes back in. There's just all kinds of weird stuff on there. 'A Tout Le Monde' is a really trippy song. People have already asked us, 'Is this a suicide letter that Dave's writing?' No. These are the last words... If you could tell someone that you loved in your final seconds of your life, this is what you would say. It's like, 'To all my friends, I love you all. Now I must go. Set me free.' Dude, we're into it. We're not just here goofing off. We're into making music and making songs. That's really what *Youthenasia* is about."

YEAH. I REALLY APPRECIATE SEEING AN ARTIST WHO IS THAT THOUGHTFUL AND INSIGHTFUL OF SOME OF THE STUFF THAT'S GOING ON TODAY.

"Yeah, like I said, we're on top of it. Most of the stuff that we write about is stuff that takes place in our lives and stuff that we see that bothers us, and that we think other people should hear about."

LET'S HOPE THAT DAVE'S NOT TOO IN TOUCH WITH IT, WITH THE "A TOUT LE MONDE" RIGHT NOW.

"Dave's actually doing really well. The band's getting along better than it's ever gotten along, and we've really come to a level of respect and trust for one another. Dude, this is the band. This is the band forever. Megadeth is not going to have any more line-up changes. It's four guys now. When people ask me, I go, 'Hey, it's not just Dave's band. It's my band, too.' He supports me in that. It is my band. I've put a lot of work in this band since I came in at *Rest In Peace*. I'm constantly elaborating on things and coming up with ideas. Now Dave knows he's got three other guys that are just equally as into it as he is. In the past, that's why he had so many line-up changes, because the other guys were (bleepin') off. They weren't serious. They were into other things that were non-important.

"I'm getting waved at by the lady. I've got to do another phoner. Do you have any more questions, or are you about wrapped up?"

I'M PRETTY WRAPPED UP.

"Do you have one more question?"

UH, I JUST WANTED TO

CONT'D ON PAGE 25

1994 Staff Picks

While we're busy tabulating the results of the reader's poll, we thought you might like to know what some of the Heaven's Metal staff and writers think was great in '94. As always, we've got an eclectic bunch here with a wide variety in tastes. See if you can relate to what the staff thinks. We asked each of our writers and office personnel the following three questions:

1) What are your top five albums for '94?
2) Who was your favorite live band for '94?
3) Who is your favorite unsigned/indie band for '94?

Here are their answers:

Jeff Scheetz

Albums	Lovewar - *Soak Your Brain*
	Red Sea - *Blood*
	Craig Erickson - *Retro Blues Express*
	King's X - *Dogman*
	Michael Sweet - *Michael Sweet*
Live Band	Lovewar
Indie Band	Jeff Scheetz Band

Andrew Crump

Albums	Sometime Sunday - *Stone*
	Wish For Eden - *Pet The Fish*
	Starflyer 59 - *Starflyer 59*
	Deliverance - *River Disturbance*
	Michael Knott - *Rocket And A Bomb*
Live Band	Circle of Dust
Indie Band	Scaterd Few (tell Brandon to sign 'em up!)

Doug Van Pelt

Albums	Red Sea - *Blood*
	Guardian - *Swing Swang Swung*
	King's X - *Dogman*
	The Brave - *Trust*
	Jerusalem - *Prophet*
Live Band	Guardian
Indie Band	Scapegoat

Charlotta Van Pelt

Albums	Guardian - *Swing Swang Swung*
	Sam Phillips - *Martinis And Bikinis*
	Various - *HM Hard Music Compilation*
	The Brave - *Trust*
	Precious Death - *If You Must*
Live Band	Guardian
Indie Band	Fourth Estate

Charles Gates

Albums	Precious Death - *If You Must*
	Red Sea - *Blood*
	King's X - *Dogman*
	Sleepy Ray - *Under The Mighty Blood*
	Guardian - *Swing Swang Swung*
Live Band	Mortal
Indie Band	Love Coma

Pastor Bob

Albums	Barren Cross - *Rattle Your Cage*
	Red Sea - *Blood*
	Precious Death - *If You Must*
	King's X - *Dogman*
	Bride - *Scarecrow Messiah*
Live Band	Michael Sweet Band
Indie Band	Paul Falzone

Brent Hershey

Albums	Starflyer 59 - *Starflyer 59*
	Undercover - *Forum*
	Daniel Amos - *Bibleland*
	Passafist - *Passafist*
	Sometime Sunday - *Stone*
Live Band	The Choir
Indie Band	Clash of Symbols

Randy Rocker

Albums	Amy Grant - *House Of Love*
	King's X - *Dogman*
	Guardian - *Swing Swang Swung*
	Atomic Opera - *For Madmen Only*
	Sam Phillips - *Martinis & Bikinis*
Live Band	Vigilantes Of Love
Indie Band	Soul Shock Remedy

David Jenison

Albums	L.S.U. - *Grace Shaker*
	Starflyer 59 - *Starflyer 59*
	Bride - *Scarecrow Messiah*
	Undercover - *Forum*
	Focused - *Bow*
Live Band	L.S.U.
Indie Band	Sanctified Glory Mountain Revival Family

Dan MacIntosh

Albums	The Choir - *Speckled Bird*
	Victoria Williams - *Loose*
	Randy Stonehill - *Lazarus Heart*
	Blenderhead - *Prime Candidate For Burnout*
	Passafist - *Passifist*
Live Band	Mortal

Scott Wenzel

Albums	King's X - *Dogman*
	Michael Sweet - *Michael Sweet*
	Bride - *Scarecrow Messiah*
	Amy Grant - *House of Love*
	Tourniquet - *Vanishing Lessons*
Live Band	King's X

Look for the really important picks (yours) in the next (March/April) issue!

HM

10 Years of Heaven's Metal

WHAT IS HARD MUSIC?

hardcore, hard rock, heavy metal, industrial, and alternative, that's what!

Megadeth cont'd:

KIND OF LET YOU KNOW WHAT HEAVEN'S METAL IS ALL ABOUT. IT PRETTY MUCH COVERS THE CHRISTIAN HARD MUSIC SCENE.

"Uh, huh."

AND WITH EVERY MAGAZINE WE LIKE TO DO AN INTERVIEW WITH SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T FIT INTO THAT SCENE AND THAT GENRE AND KIND OF LET THEM KNOW WHERE WE'RE COMING FROM AND KIND OF LET SOMEONE EXPRESS WHERE THEY'RE COMINGFROM. I JUST WANTED TO PART WITH A COMMENT ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE CHRISTIANITY AND MOST OTHER WORLD RELIGIONS, LIKE HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM IS LIKE A PHILOSOPHY. ISLAM IS LIKE . . . THEIR CONCEPT OF PARADISE IS ALL THE SEXUAL ECSTASY YOU COULD EVER HAVE IN THE WORLD.. . ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE DENIED YOURSELF IS YOURS IN PARADISE. IT'S KIND OF A "DO GOOD AND YOU'LL GET REWARDED" THING, BUT CHRISTIANITY IS NOT REALLY A PHILOSOPHY. IT'S ABOUT A PERSON. THAT'S KIND OF WHERE WE'RE COMING FROM.

"That's pretty cool."

YEAH, I DIG IT.

"That's neat."

WELL, I'LL BE SURE AND GET YOU A COPY OF THIS ISSUE WHEN IT COMES OUT.

"Please."

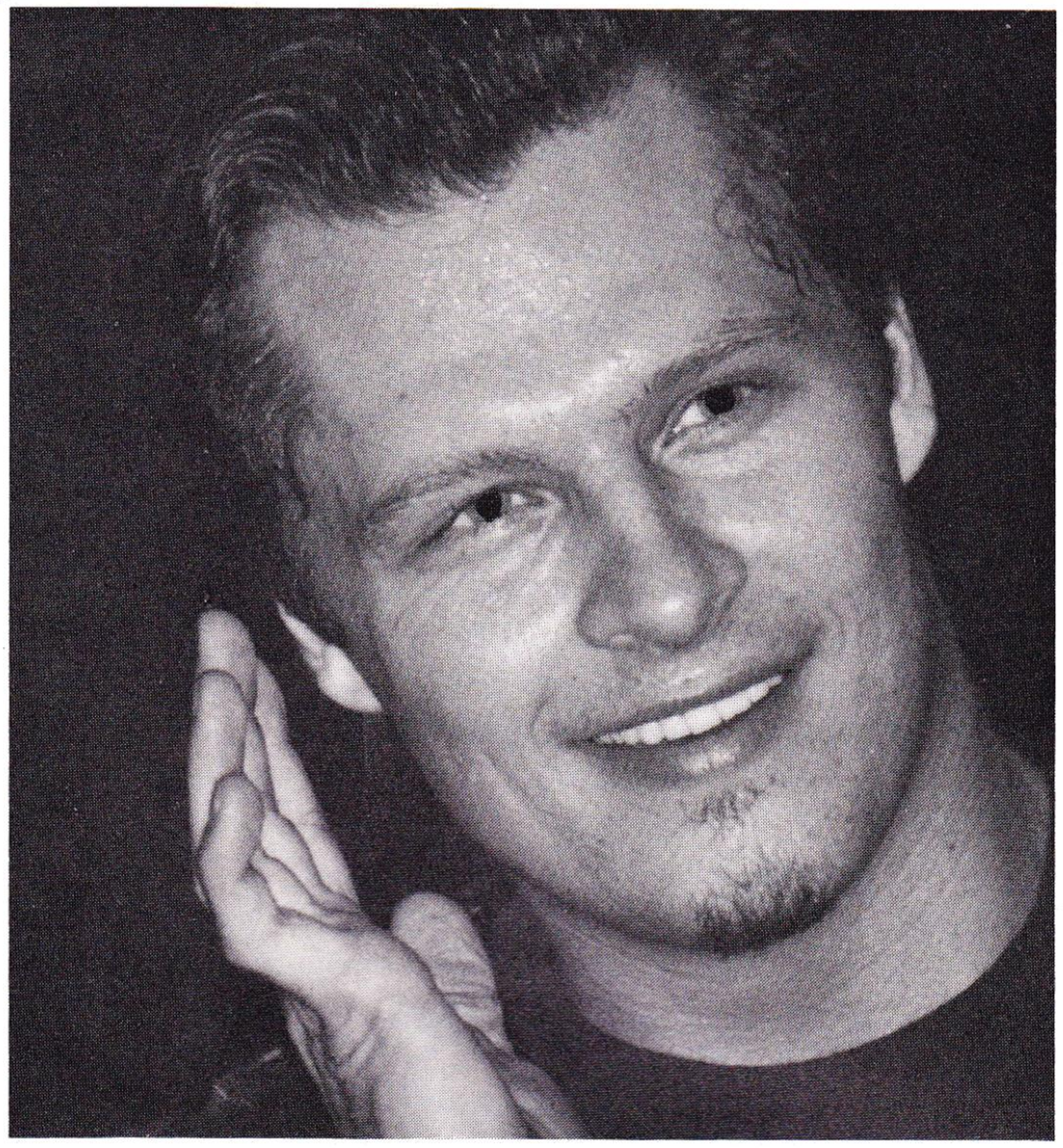
SHOULD I JUST USE THE FAN MAIL ADDRESS?

"Yeah, you can just use the address of our management. It's printed in the CD."

HM

METAL TRACKS

METAL TRACKS



DALE (Photo by Denise Keeran - IHS Photos)

After all the courting, **Bride** has just signed a new recording contract with Rugged Records. Look for the band's next album in May. "We at Rugged Records are happy to have another best friend that fits so well with the rest of our family," states Rugged President Michael Betts. "Our vision for quality projects continues, as does our commitment to honor God. We are thankful that the members of Bride share in our vision."

"We had a few offers from other record companies," adds Dale Thompson. "We met with Michael. He flew out to Louisville to meet with us. We did a lot of praying about it and felt like that's really where God wants us. It's not the size of record company, but their commitment to God. We feel that Michael is going in the same direction that we're going in. That was the biggest reason we signed. I feel like we're going to have more freedom at Rugged Records, and we'll have more control over our projects than we did in the past. For me, that's important for any artist. Not to be dictated about what songs should be able to go on their record. Michael mentioned one thing to me that was very important. We're going to self-produce this next record, and his attitude is, 'he's signing the band. He's not signing a producer.' He wants the band to be able to get what they want to get in the studio. I think, if a band claims to be songwriters, then they should have the say-so in what the album sounds like. Especially on some of the earlier stuff that we've done, it was a lot of producers doing their thing. I think the closest to what we had asked for would probably be on the last record.

"The next record will not be a metal record. It's going to be a rock record. Not to be confused with White Heart or somebody like that, but it's gonna be more of a . . . we've invented a new style called 'Groovy Music,' and that's what it's going to be. It's not grunge and it's not hard rock and it's not pop, but it's groovy music. Both *Snakes...* and *Scarecrow...* were both pretty much straight-forward hard rock, and I think that this record will be different. Everything's different about it. The guitar tones that Troy's working on, the style of vocals that I'm doing, even the drumming. Jerry mentioned to me, 'I've never played like this on a record before.' I think that this is going to be a lot of the differences. Plus, with a new bass player . . . he's a different type of player than what Rick is. All four of us are going to be doing something different than what we've done in the past on a record. The songwriting is different too. Lyrically, I've tried to be more tongue-in-cheek than I've been in the past. If people have liked the lyrics on something like 'Time' or 'Don't Use Me,' then I think they'll like these lyrics a lot, because that's the type of stuff I'm writing. My lyrics have always kind of been their own thing, but I've been trying to perfect the style that I've been writing.

"Hopefully we won't have any B-songs or filler songs on this record. We've come to the conclusion that, 'If one person in the band doesn't like the song, then it doesn't get recorded. Everyone in the band has to like the song, because there's always songs on the record that somebody says, 'Man, I never did like that song to begin with.' Everybody in the band is like, 'Well, should we play it live?' So, what I'd like to do when this record's done and we start playing the songs is actually being able to go out and comfortably play all ten songs from the new record, instead of taking the four or five that we like.

"I hope the fans don't think that we're wimping out. I think that if they're really into Bride, I think this is just a much better, modified Bride than what it's been. Of course, if it fails miserably, there's always that solo career I'm working on! (laughs) I actually start recording on it December 7th. The songs are written for it and I've found the best musicians that money can buy, because I am paying pros to come in and play on this one. So, it's going to cost me a little bit more to do it. I'm trying to get more of a serious vibe with it. Even though the lyrics are a little bit more insane, the musical aspect will be a little more serious. So, nobody will have to put up with me playing lead guitar and stuff!"

Tourniquet has just finished filming a video for the tune "Bearing Gruesome Cargo" (on film!). This will be part of a full-length video project, which will include several live clips and about 20 minutes of in-depth interviews from band members about important issues they have dealt with. The band is set to head into the studio at press time to record a 5-song EP, called *Carry The Wounded*, based on praying for and believing in brothers and sisters who fall. The EP will include this title track, two other new songs, a re-recorded acoustic version with orchestral additives of "My Promise," and a cover of the old Fleetwood Mac tune, "Oh Well" (Remember that tune: "Don't ask me 'bout the shape I'm in/I can't sing, I ain't pretty 'n' my legs are thin").

Mission of Mercy has changed its name to **Yonderboy**. Guess what the title of its long-overdue debut album will be? You guessed it: *Mission of Mercy*.

Whitecross toured Costa Rica in November.

Via Records has just signed **Hoi Polloi** to a multi-album contract. Production on a new album with Choir drummer **Steve Hindalong** producing will begin in December at Neverland Studios in Nashville.

Guardian now has a "Guard Dawg Fan Club," with a t-shirt, Guard Dawg Gazette subscription, back stage pass, and other goodies to help you keep up with one of the hottest acts around. For info, write: PO Box

1531,Franklin, TN 37065.

Z Music Television, whose "Brimstone Chronicles" show continues to be its most popular, is now managed by Gaylord Entertainment Company, parent company of CMT, CMT Europe, and TNN. Two weekly three-hour blocks of Z Music programming has been picked up by tv! Network. Keep bugging your local cable operator until it's on in your area!

Nonpoint Factor has been chosen to appear on the *SLAMMIE* compilation CD to represent the best of South Florida's hard music scene.

Former **Pale Horse** vocalist, **Rich Olson**, has formed a new band called **Breath of Life**. The sound is described as "much more doomy than his previous band, with very sorrowful Sabbath-like riffs." Their debut, a three-song EP called *Proud World*, should be out early this year. For further info, write Breath of Life at: 47 Presidential Dr, Erial, NJ 08081.

Talk about a major scoop here: **Ty Tabor** of **King's X** is producing the new **REZ** album. This will undoubtedly be the most anticipated REZ album since the *Hostage* days. In the "who really cares anymore" category, Ty has been spotted with a newly buzzed haircut.

Luxury is recording its debut album with Choir drummer Steve Hindalong and Fluffy guitarist **Chris Colbert**. Tooth & Nail offer a bizarre definition of Luxury's sound: "a blend of The Smiths, Starflyer 59, and Fugazi (?)!" Another T&N band that recently was on a bill with Fugazi is **Everdown**, whose debut album was produced by **Believer**'s **Kurt Bachman**.

Sometime Sunday has already been in the studio recording its sophomore album (don't you hate the way music people call a band's second album "a sophomore effort?" Why don't they call the third and fourth albums "junior" and "senior" respectively?).

Rob Walker of **Wish For Eden** has signed a solo deal with T&N. Rob is now writing songs about the journey God has brought him on to get him to where he is now.

Kerygma Child is scheduled to play the Icthus Festival in April and travel to London, England for a two-week tour thanks to Y.M.I. (Youth Missions International).

Ash Black will be going into the studio to do a full-length CD project in the near future. The band wants to head in a direction akin to Metallica, Megadeth, and The Crucified. The band was recently asked to open for Savatage.

Final Judgement cries that, "We have not broken up! They have lost **Todd Derek** as a member, though. For more FJ info, write: 3346 Stratfield Dr, Atlanta, GA 30319.

Argyle Park, who had a cut on both the *Steve Taylor Tribute Album - I Predict A Clone* and *Demolition II*, have recorded its debut album, tentatively titled *Misguided*. Produced by **Scott Albert**, this album is a mixture of different styles with the focus on a techno/dance feel. Look for it in late March. For more info, write: PO Box 221, Plainview, NY 11803.

The band **Blood Covenant** has a new four-song demo available. The band says that their new material is tuned to C-sharp. Ooh! Herb and guitarist Tracy Byrd also have a side project out called **Grape**, which is looking for a bassist to complete its lineup. For more info, call (703) 945-9691.

The winner of the Abernathy Guitar Giveaway (HM #49) was Jeff Weiss, from Charleston, SC. Jeff is in a band and excitedly relates that "this guitar will be used for the glory of God!" He sure was happy when he found out!

Temple Taboo is the name of **Kyle Dietz**' new band (remember his old band, **Seraiah**?), with **Norman Stephens** on guitar (formerly of **Judea**); **Bob Gross** (who worked with **Xalt** for a while), and **William Nell** on bass.

On The Rock Publications is hoping to start a Rock Center For The Arts in Houston, Texas. "God willing," states OTR President Robin Butler, "this facility will contain a complete theatrical concert arena with state of the art sound and lighting. We plan for retail as well as executive office space for businesses related to the Christian entertainment industry. There will be amenities for small conventions, drama groups, church programs and concerts." For more info, write: PO Box 1067, Tomball, TX 77377-1067.

There is a grassroots network of Christian artists, publications, radio stations, and venues that you can access and help. Send additions and listings and a S.A.S.E. to: Pullig, 2500 Foulkwoods Rd, Wilmington, DE 19810.

By the way, both **Klank** and **Argyle Park**, both rumored "to be a front for Scott Albert," are both bands that have hired Scott to produce their projects, but are nonetheless separate entities. For info on Klank, write: PO Box 223, Farmingdale, NY 11735.

This photo shows the **Precious Death** boys with fellas from **Galactic Cowboys**, **20/20 Blind**, and Doug what's-his-name from **King's X**. P.D. came through Houston and played a poorly-promoted show at a club called "Headquarters," but they at least got to hang out with some of Houston's finest (not a reference to the police). Pictured left to right are: Ben Huggins, Doug Pinnick, Chris Scott, Alan Doss, Monty Colvin, Mike McNeely, Chris Laurents, Wallace Chase, Schon Alkire , David Bishop, and Andy Koehler. (Photo was probably taken by producer/engineer Brian Garcia)

After a string of successful dates supporting Mortification on the Australian leg of its *Blood World* tour, **Ignite** have finally snared some local label interest with Sydney-based Broken Reed Records and Melbourne-based Rowe Productions -- both placing Ignite on their respective CD compilations. The robed ones cut "My My" for the BRR release. Rumor has it that a full-length Ignite CD could be out in the early part of this year. (Lean close to the page, so it can whisper the next piece of news to you... This new album is tentatively titled *The Cracked Mirror*.)

The new **David Benson** debut EP is now finally pressed on CD and distributed by Viva Records in Sweden and New Day Christian Distributors in the U.S. (Call 1-800-251-3633 for info). David's record company, Bangin' Records, has just signed a distribution deal with **Matt Harding**'s group **Apostle**. Their latest release, entitled "Prepare To Meet God," will be reviewed in the next issue of HM.

Salt Inc. Music (**Idle Cure**, **Chase**) has formed a business alliance with **Rick Cua** and his label UCA Records. Under the new pacts, Rick will produce and record music as a division of Salt Inc. Music.

Embodyment have a tape out, called *Corrosion of the Flesh*. For info, write: PO Box 99601-306,Arlington, TX 76096-9601.

HM

Doug's Diary...

Australia

I had the awesome privilege of traveling and ministering in Australia this past September. Thanks to Rockin' Rabbis lead vocalist Owen Beck, who organized and promoted the trip, I was able to spend two weeks down under performing concerts, speaking in schools, churches, and on radio stations.

The first two days there included a band rehearsal, an interview at a local university's radio station, and speaking at a public school. Just like in America, you're limited in how you can present the Gospel in public schools, but you can communicate how it affects yourself personally. The next day included an interview on Sonshine Radio, along with Owen and Mortification's Steve Rowe (via phone lines), where we talked about the radical side of Christian music. Sonshine Radio has a 50/50 format, playing "non offensive" tunes like Neil Young's "Heart of Gold" back to back with Margaret Becker. Sounds like a great way to really reach the mainstream market to me. The deejays read a Scripture every hour, and I hear that tons of people tune in every day.

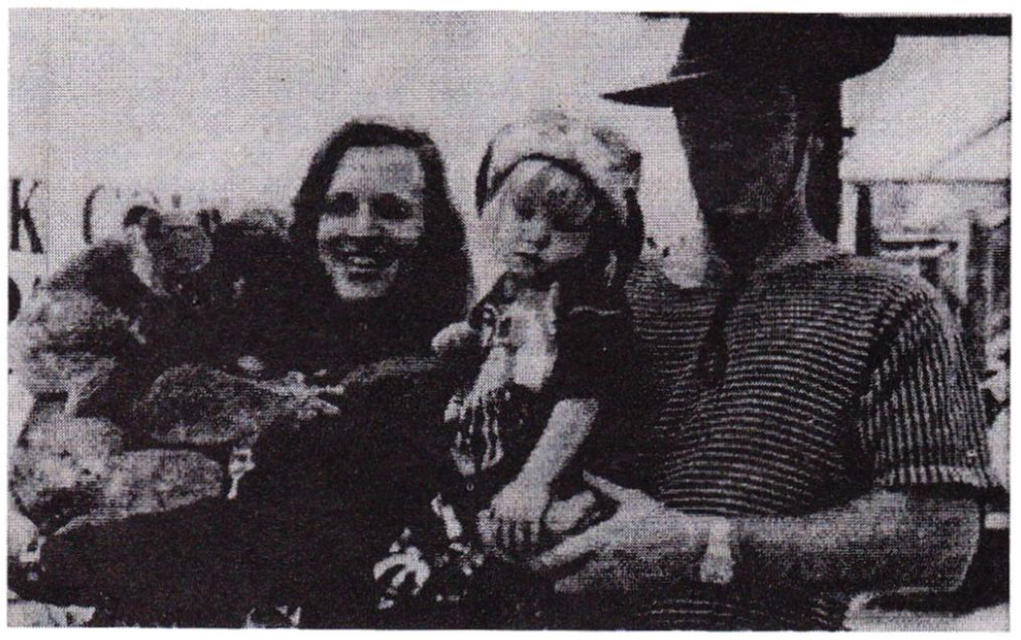
The next day also featured speaking at a Christian school, which went really well. I had images of Monty Python movies playing in my head as I stood in front of the uniform-wearing students, but it was a fruitful time that afforded the obvious freedom to speak openly about the basis for everything I was saying -- God's Word. Like the previous day's school talk, each of the kids were invited to the concerts on Friday and Saturday night.

That night's concert featured a heckler who was guzzling whiskey and shouting obscenities and abuse most of the night. Now I know how Dale Thompson felt when he wrote about performing to "500 adoring Bride fans and one heckler" in his German "Tour Diary" (HM #48). Needless to say, I was a bit thrown off and had a hard time organizing my thoughts. Those who attended thought I dealt with it well and enjoyed what I had to say, but I felt bummed because I knew I could have done better. I also heard that this guy tried to break in backstage to try and fight me, but a few of the bulkier friends there that night told him it wasn't a good idea (thanks, guys!).

The next day was a full one. It started off with a breakfast with a guy named Sven, who is the drama teacher at the Swan Christian High School I spoke at the day before. Seems he is facing similar problems to the ones faced by the boarding school teacher played by actor Robin Williams in the film *Dead Poet's Society*. Seems the administration at the school want him to be more traditional. He's already cut his long hair off, but his nose ring, left-of-center creativity, self-written plays, and passion for drama are still much harder for the administration to digest than the simple, predictable performances of *Oliver* and *The Sound of Music*. It was encouraging for us all to talk about following the vision that God's given you and yet still maintain peace with those around you who haven't caught on.

After breakfast Owen, his daughter Gracie, and former Rabbi's drumer Roscoe White took me to a petting zoo, where I got to cuddle a Koala bear and pet some kangaroos (what an experience!).

That night's concert was 100 times better than the previous nights (no hecklers!), and the speaking I did seemed to flow. Local band **Salvation Jane** opened up both nights with a groovin' set of bluesy alternative



With Koalas, Gracie, & Roscoe

music a la "Eddie Vedder fronts The Choir." I had to catch a midnight flight to Melbourne immediately after the show, so I invited those in attendance to the airport. About 15-25 people came to send me off. If I hadn't been so worried about catching the flight, I probably would've cried a few tears when I said goodbye to 'em.

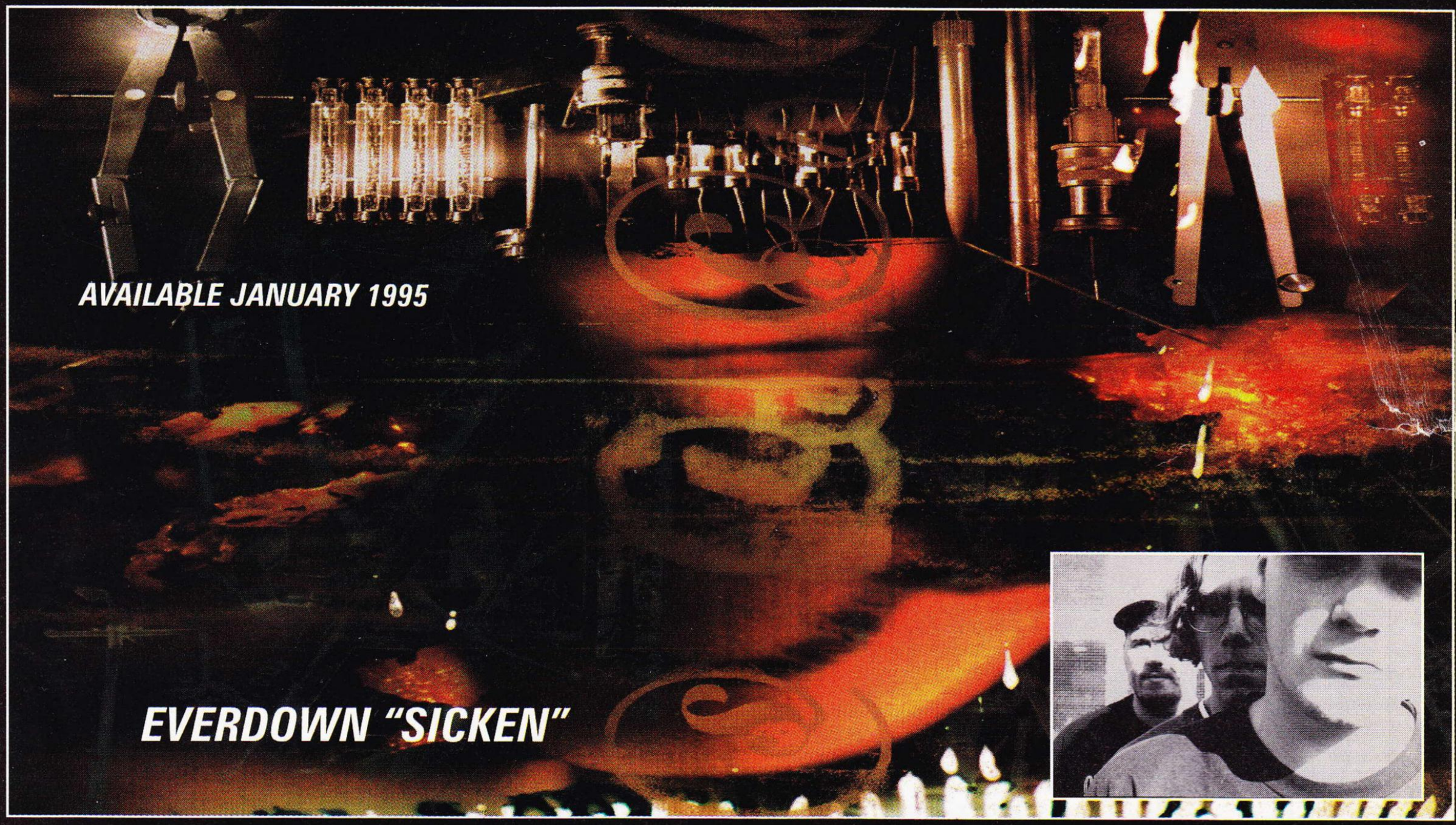
I arrived in Melbourne at 6 a.m. (Steve Rowe didn't pick me up until 7 a.m., the goof!), and I was scheduled to speak at his old church -- pastored by Dave and Rosanna Palmer (of Rosanna's Raiders) -- at 10 a.m. It was the loudest rock and roll worship service I've ever experienced, with Rosanna and husband leading the worship team with power chords and praise choruses written by themselves and the worship team at Christian City Church in Sydney.

After the service Steve and I stayed and talked with people. One woman stood by and waited for everyone else to finish talking to me. Having seen a young girl do the same thing the previous week in Perth, I knew this lady wanted to share something personal. She referred to something I said about forgiveness and asked me how I could help her forgive her husband, who had recently killed their 17 year old son! (Whoa!) I prayed for a miracle, because it will definitely take the power of God (which is easy for Him) to bring about the kind of healing and grace to nurture this kind of forgiveness.

On Monday my wife arrived and Steve was gracious (to the max! -- as was everyone who hosted me the entire two weeks) and got us a hotel room to relax and recuperate. The next few days were spent accompanying **Mortification** to a couple of concerts. One in Wollongong, where Steve asked me to preach an "altar call" type message, and the band's performance on mainstage at the Black Stump Festival.

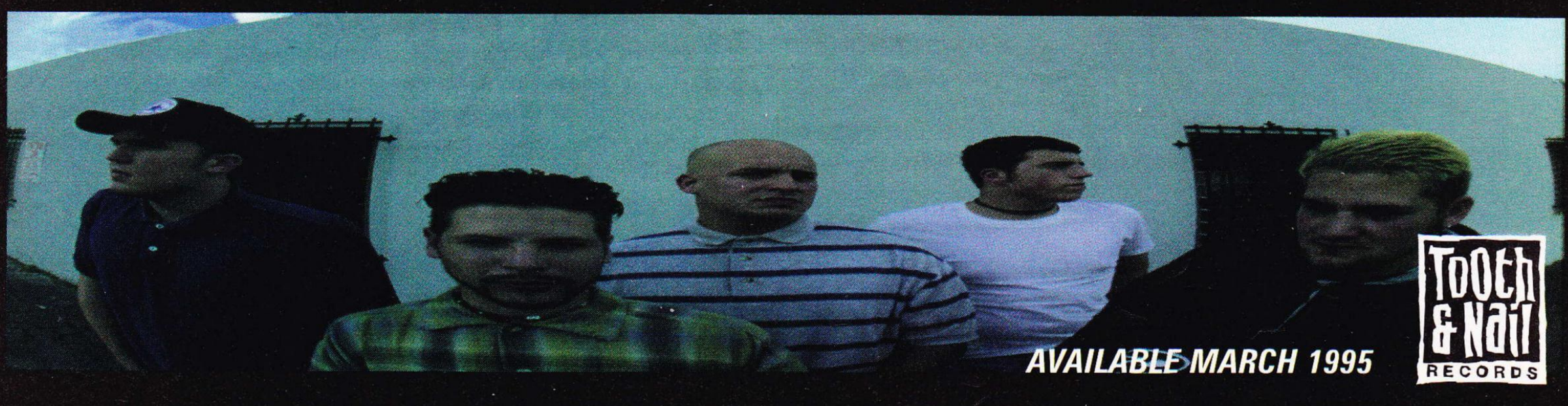
I preached a message on the blood covenant that God has made with us, referencing the story of Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9. I joked that this would be a new Mortification song, as I did my best growling voice pronunciation of Mephibosheth's name (Don't be surprised if it happens -- Steve and I wrote the lyrics in the van on the way to Black Stump). Opening the show this night was **Ignite**, those metallic monks who wear full monk robes drawn together with rope. Quite a trip! (I documented some of their performance on video. Hopefully, I'll have a chance to put some of it on a future HM Video Mag.) **Paramaecium** played a stellar set of its doom death metal next. Wow! These guys are so tight! Their sound absolutely kills.

Mortification sounded better than ever, as well. It was a


AVAILABLE JANUARY 1995
EVERDOWN "SICKEN"

STRONG ARM

"ATONEMENT"


AVAILABLE MARCH 1995
Tooth & Nail RECORDS

real privilege to see Steve front this world-class band. As a vocalist, this guy seems to be in his prime, giving relaxed and powerful performances and making it look easy. The vocal sound he's sporting these days sounds like the perfect blend of brutal grind and understandable classic metal vocals.

After the Wollongong gig, the bands headed for the Black Stump Festival outside of Sydney. Black Stump is a great three-day festival similar to Cornerstone, with tons of seminars and side stages in addition to the mainstage. The only difference is that Black Stump schedules their acts on mainstage according to genre. Friday was metal night, with **Thrash Puppies**, **Cry Mercy**, Paramaecium, and Mortification. The Thrash Puppies were like a send-off of Rockin' Rabbis and One Bad Pig, as they dressed in outrageous costumes of the Saturday morning variety. (The guitarist was a dragon, and the drummer was a baby.) Cry Mercy was a surprise, since the only material of theirs I had heard was their furiously powerful "Shut Up And Listen" from the *Godspeed* compilation album. I was expecting a Pantera/Crucified type attack and what I got instead was a very competent and melodic "Guardian meets Bride" type performance.

The next night's mainstage was "alternative rock" night, which featured two bands that are managed by the same company as Midnight Oil -- **Quick 'N' The Dead** and **Spy vs. Spy**. Glen, the lead singer for Quick 'N' The Dead, did something brilliant that I'd never seen before: Instead of stage diving (which was forbidden) he used a giant inflatable rescue boat to float over the audience as he sang into his wireless microphone. A very fun and cool stunt indeed! They sang a song about rock stars that said something like, "I'm a cool heavy metal singer, because I say (bleep) between every song." It went by so fast that I'm sure not many people caught it, but I'm sure it raised the eyebrows of those that did. It definitely made a point about those in the secular industry who feel they have to use the f-word at least 100 times per concert (Which isn't cool, it's just stupid and immature).

Spy vs. Spy, who are a mainstream band for all intents and purposes (like The Alarm or The Call playing Cornerstone), headlined the mainstage on Saturday. The lead singer said "Hallelujah!" a lot, and it seemed unnatural the way he said it, like it was contrived just for this audience. Interesting, but not demeaning by any means. We left on Sunday with Cry Mercy's Walter Harnish and his fiance in order to be closer to the airport for our Monday morning departure.

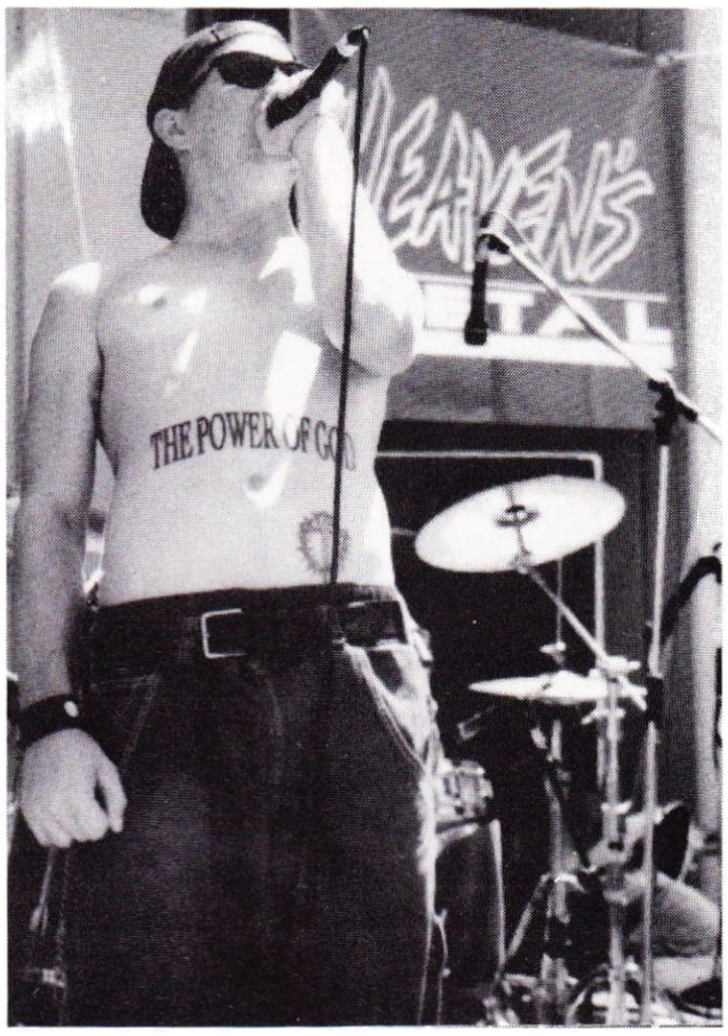
In case anyone wondered, Australia was a beautiful and wonderful place with lots of on-fire Christians with big hearts. I thought I might see people that were envious of America and its western advances, but Australia is very self-sufficient and happenin' in its own right. They've got their own industries, their own entertainment, and their own sports. It was truly a blessing to spend two weeks on this huge continent. I hope to return and do it again sometime.

The one request I heard over a dozen times was: "When's Bride coming over here?" (You'll love it, Dale; and say "Hi" to the heckler for me!)

Foundations Forum

Heaven's Metal had a showcase stage once again at this year's Foundations Forum Convention. The bands that performed were: **The Blamed**, **Wish For Eden**, **Broken Silence**, **Latter Reign**, and **Deliverance**. The Blamed performed with part of its new lineup -- minus drummer Jim Chaffin, but including new vocalist Jeremy Moffit. The band didn't perform any of its new material, which is supposed to be brutal metallic stuff (a la The you-know-who -- Jim's ex-band), but all the older tunes from *21* sounded heavier than the album. At one point in the set, which was the lead-off set of the HM Showcase, vocalist Jeremy Moffit declared, "We're a Christian band!" which seemed like a personal statement of victory for him and the band, but apparently put them in an unwanted box in the minds of the nine to twelve people who immediately headed for the exits.

The other bands that have performed this year and last didn't back down from what they believe in, and said



Jeremy Moffit (IHS Photos)

things that put their faith in clear, "we follow Jesus" terms, but didn't have the "us versus them" mentality as this statement did. In some ways, it worked against the "here we are, we're part of the music scene too, and we've got music worth listening to, and something worth singing about" attitude that most of the other bands took.

On the other hand, if we were all in Jeremy Moffit's shoes, maybe we would need to make a statement like that in order to tell ourselves, our God, and our world where we stood. I may not have chosen to say the same thing, but I certainly don't think he ruined his band's set by saying it, either. As you'll read in this issue's article on The Blamed, these guys are unashamed of Christ, and I think they'll be around a while and will make a difference as a result.

Coming on next was Wish For Eden, which didn't say much at all from the stage, but let its music impress and impress some more with its perfect mix and slammin' full sound. The band's set, which included a new song or two, was the highlight of the HM Showcase this year.

Ex-Hawaii residents Broken Silence (the other Broken Silence -- the one produced by David Zaffiro) came on next and played tons of its melodic metal songs with confidence and a clean mix. Vocalist Daniel Ysais related about how he recently was in the hospital, where a doctor said he may never walk again, and how he had to deal with that and how God helped him through the scary time. His guitar player, Byron Jacobs, played some killer leads. Their Holy Soldier sound-alike tune, "Ready To Go," was a standout moment.

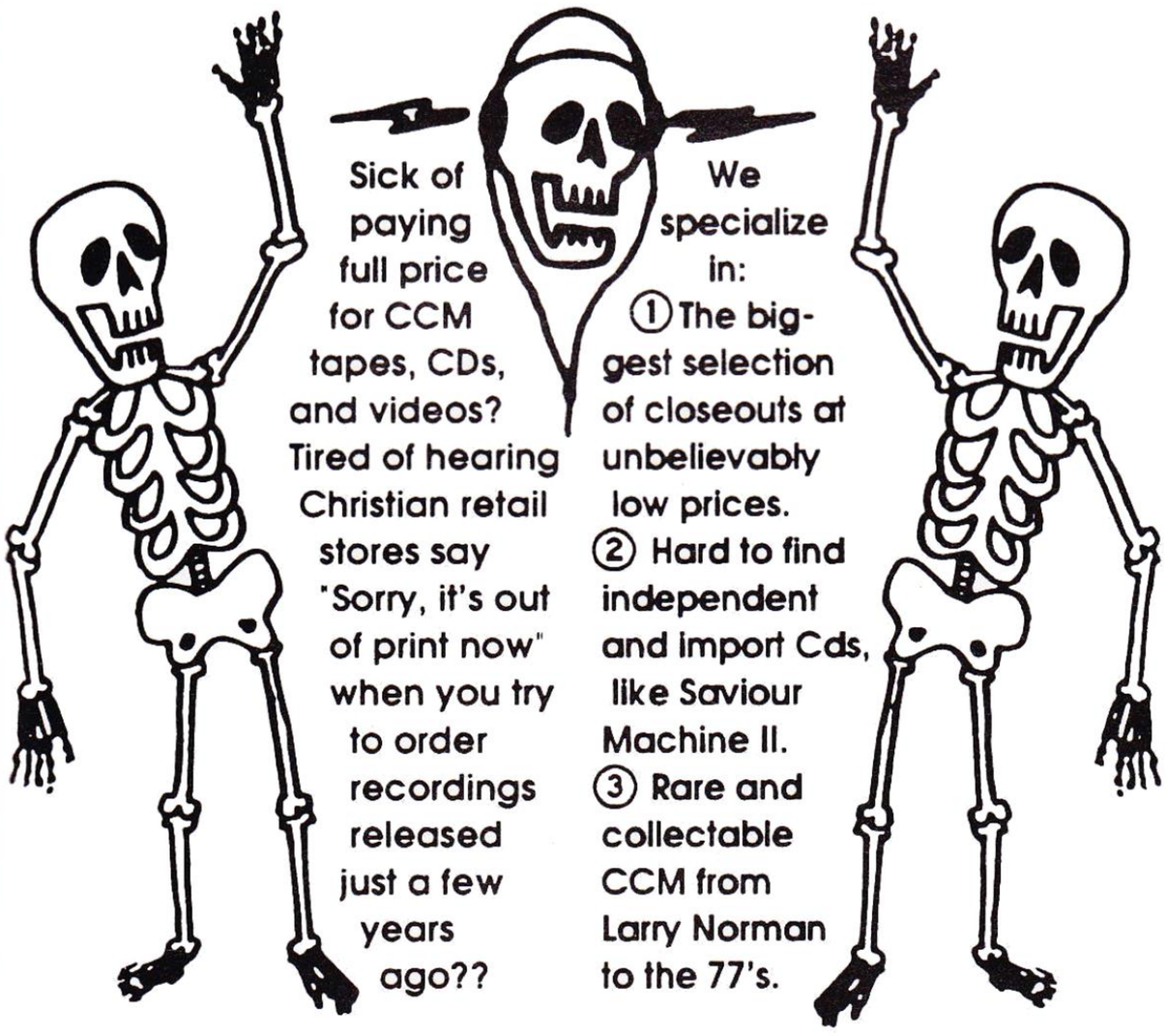
Latter Reign played a killer performance, even though their drummer suffered through a broken double bass pedal and the band had to cut their set short. The band was a little disappointed in their performance as a result, but I don't think anyone in the audience thought they were anything short of a real good band, showing why a magazine like HM would put 'em on its compilation album and have 'em play at its showcase. I was anxious to see if their talent stood up to their fine studio recording of "Desire" (the first single released from the *Heaven's Metal Hard Music Compilation*). They did. These guys sounded professional and, even though they played their melodic metal set back to back with Broken Silence (making for a full two hours of melodic metal at a cutting edge "aggressive hardcore is on top of the trends" convention), Latter Reign held their own with confidence. "Desire" came off real well live, too.

Almost having to call a no-show, Deliverance finally returned from the music store with new cymbals in hand for its set. Vocalist Jimmy Brown, sporting his new short hair style, didn't go all out and wear his "Zoot Suit," yet displayed his ever-growing repertoire of good songs. Culling tunes from its last three albums, Deliverance only reached far back for one tune, which he declared from stage that I personally made him do (for grins). The tune was "No Time," which did almost sound foreign against a backdrop of the band's newer material.

Overall, though, Deliverance put a decent finishing touch on a five-hour showcase that displayed energy with a purpose beyond the norm.

HM

RAD ROCKERS DISTRIBUTION



Sick of paying full price for CCM tapes, CDs, and videos? Tired of hearing Christian retail stores say "Sorry, it's out of print now" when you try to order recordings released just a few years ago??

We specialize in:
① The biggest selection of closeouts at unbelievably low prices.
② Hard to find independent and import Cds, like Saviour Machine II.
③ Rare and collectable CCM from Larry Norman to the 77's.

YOU'LL NEVER BE CONTENT TO JUST SHOP AT THE LOCAL CHRISTIAN RETAIL STORE AGAIN !

For a free sample of our massive (40 + pages) mail order catalog, write, call or fax:
RRD, P.O.Box 207, Milan, MI 48160 (313) 439-7029 Fax:(313) 439-7048

HEAVENS METAL VIDEO MAGAZINE

VOLUME 1, 2, or 3 - $15 EACH [+$3 P/H]

OR ALL 3 FOR $39 [+$4.65 P/H]

HM HARD MUSIC COMPILATION CD'S - $11 / TAPES - $8 [+$2]

HM T-SHIRTS - $16

[RASBERRY, NAVY, GREEN] [+$1 P/H]

HM COLLECTION BOXSET CD'S - $20 / TAPES - $15 [+$3 P/H]

Rubber Meets The Road (Book) - $6 [+$1 P/H]

SEND CHECK/M.O. TO: HM, PO BOX 17367, AUSTIN, TX 78760-7367

[FOREIGN ORDERS ADD $3 TO ABOVE P/H CHARGES (EXCEPT VIDEOS)]

1995 - FACE T

RED SEA - BLOOD • BARREN CR

B L O O D

RATTLE YOUR C

RED SEA

RUGGED MUSIC FO

THE MUSIC

OSS - RATTLE YOUR CAGE

AGE

RUGGED

RECORDS

HEAVEN'S METAL

YOUR HARD MUSIC AUTHORITY

R RUGGED TIMES

Smash Hits Underground

Where Ministry Is Top Priority

"Fans of PANTERA & METALICA can't resist the sound of this aggresive metal ministry..." Gary Wagner - "Iron Cross"

"These are obviously seasoned musicians destined to become key players in the music industry." **- Pete Brown "Painful Attitude"**

Hear a sample of music by phone

(910) 917-1500

So you can "try it before you buy it."

(5 minutes - average of 18¢ per min.)

"Wild & speedy guitar solos played through a harmonizer, combined with snarling vocals, sound effects, unusual instruments, and strong Biblical truths have created a musical joyride on a wild roller-coaster of aggressive metal & ministry . . ." **- Matt Briggs - solo guitarist**

"They have the live stage presence that can pack large venues like the biggest name bands. No other MTV band has a lead vocalist/frontman who also plays guitar, flute, sax, organ, harmonica, and synthesizer on stage. A very unusual group. Literally one of a kind . . ." **- Jon Laws - "Stonehouse"**

"The 2 hour concert video holds your attention with segments of extreme snowboarding, skate, surf, moto-x, monster trucks, and Harley showbikes. Great ministry tool . . ." **- Glen Morris - "Prophecy"**

Life Line Records

Long Distributing

NOT YET AVAILABLE IN STORES! To Order:

Send $10 (+ $2 shipping) for each audio tape, and
$30 (+ $3 shipping) for each video tape to:

DAVID A. WALKER • P.O. Box 25191 • Winston-Salem, NC 27114

(Those who order both the audio & video tapes will receive a free one year fan club membership with ministry newsletters and access to cool posters, photos, Christian biker t-shirts, etc. . .)

Foreign orders add an extra $3 shipping per item.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DAVID A. WALKER

FOR BOOKING & CONCERT INFO CALL: "EASTERN BOOKING" (910) 631-6092

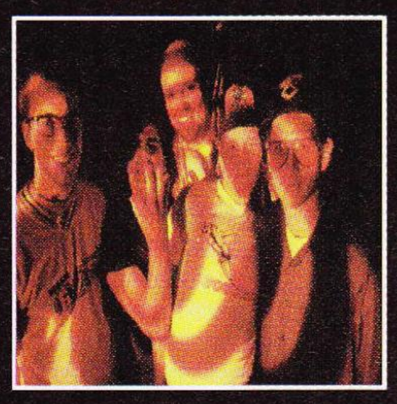
Bands looking for musicians? S. A. U. has a network.
Send a tape, photo, and bio. We can help.

D L B management

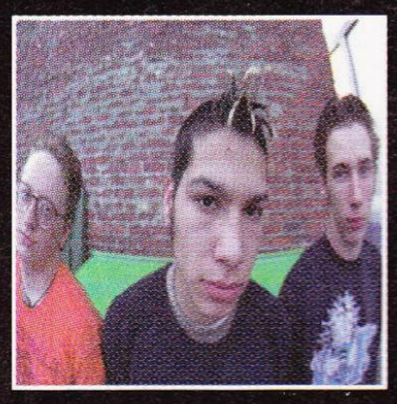
NOW BOOKING SPRING AND SUMMER 95' TOURS

CALL (714) 863-9632/(714) 863-9857 FAX

Blenderhead



MXPX

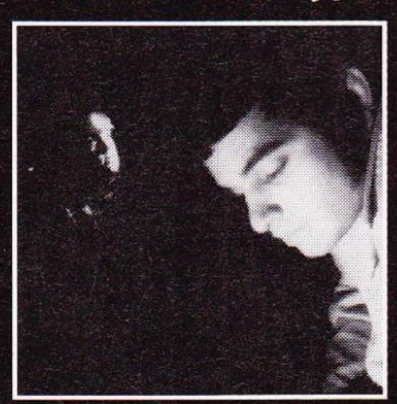


JOY ELECTRIC

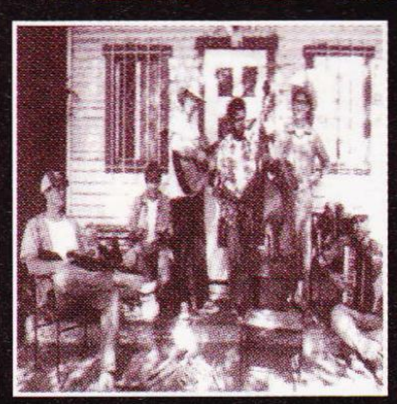
SOMETIME SUNDAY

PLANK EYE

STAR FLYER 59



HAVALINA RAIL CO.



FOCUSED

SLEEPY RAY

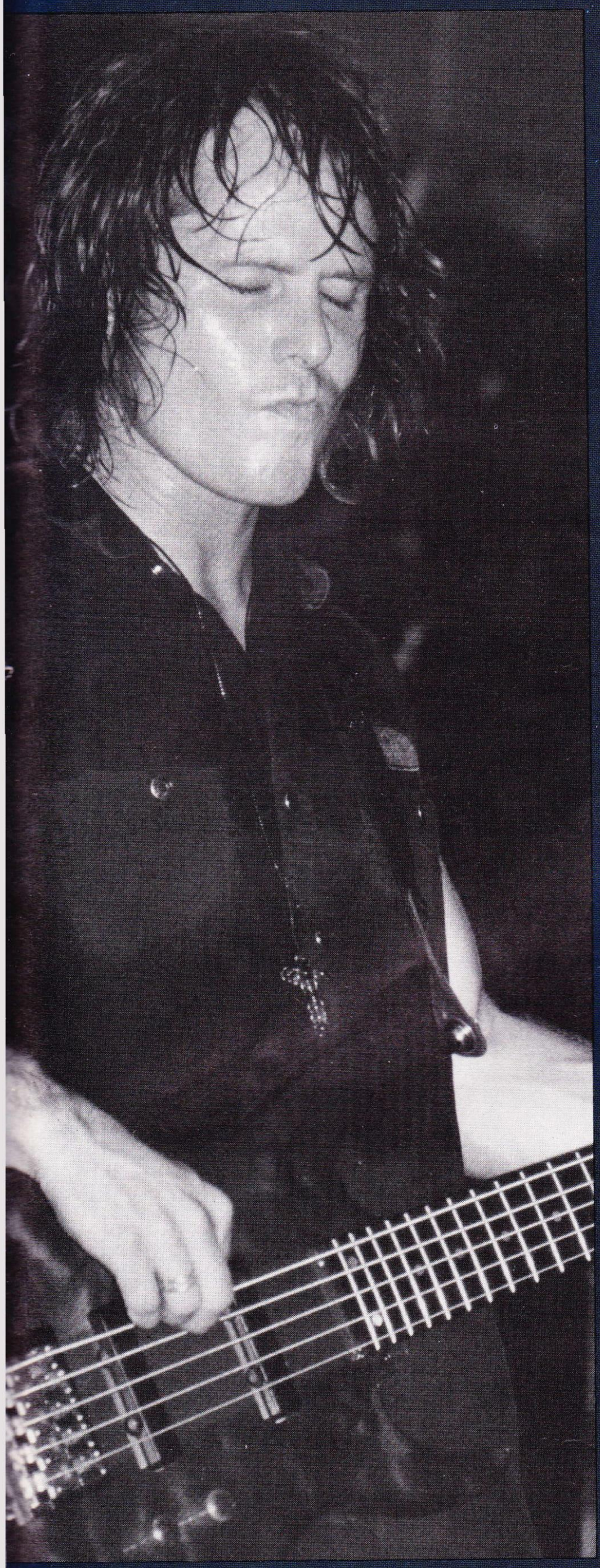
SIX FEET DEEP

IF YOU ARE A SIGNED BAND SEEKING BOOKING REPRESENTATION, CONTACT OUR COMPANY ADMINISTRATOR

Concert Reviews

GUARDIAN

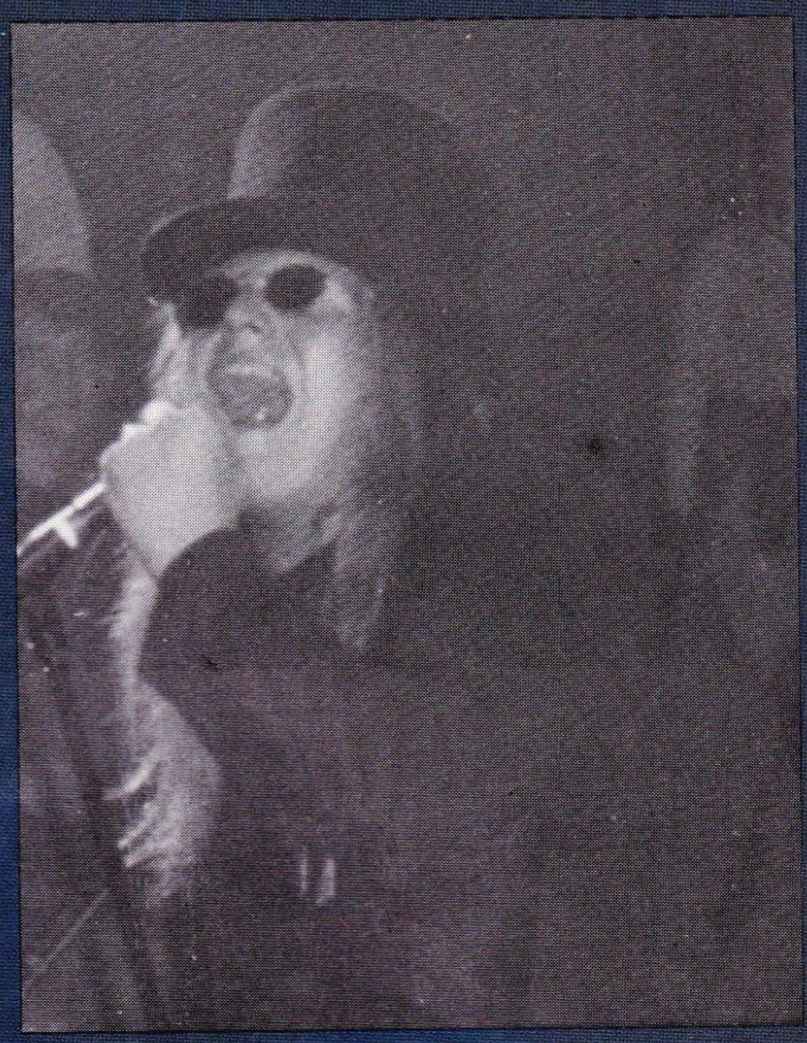
Jamie Rowe



David Bach

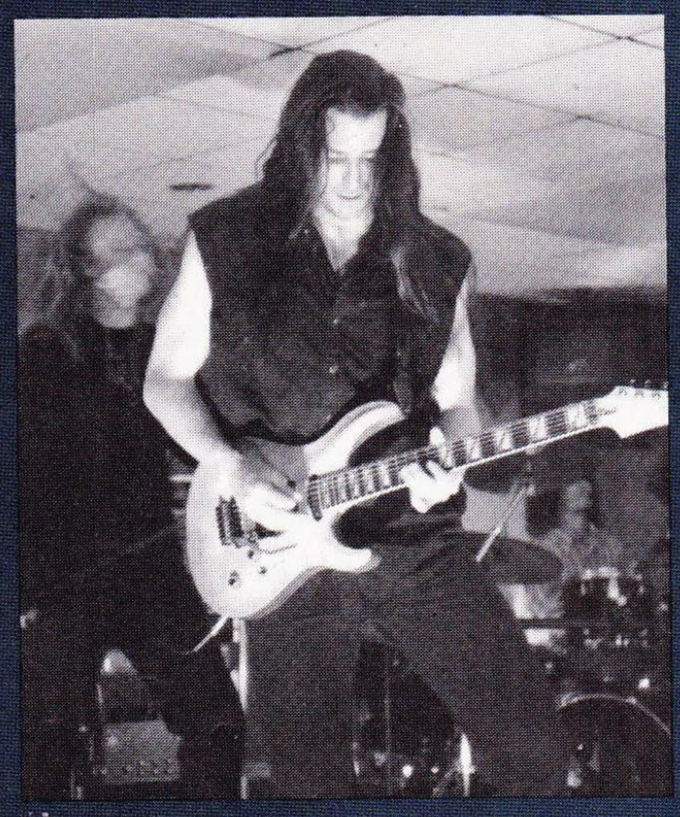
HM #51

As part of the *Squinternational* tour with Hokus Pick and Steve Taylor, Guardian took the middle slot and captivated the audience for a good 45 minutes. I came to this show to see these boys, since they are one of the top dawgs in this whole genre, and I was very curious to hear their new songs live. Would they do a whole set of acoustic tunes? Would the set include any older songs? After a short but energetic set by Hokus Pick, I was about to find out.



Coming out in their "new look," with Jamie Rowe sporting an extra tall hat, these Nashville boys proceeded to blow me away! Right away I noticed something different. When they ripped into "Shoeshine Johnny," the background vocals sounded good, but not overpoweringly perfect as in past performances (you know, they've used backing vocal tracks for the last two album's worth of tours). Tony and David Bach were belting out real background vocals! And, you know what, they sounded great! I was never one to publicly get down on the guys in Guardian, but I always felt a twinge of disappointment whenever I'd hear the DAT-taped wall of BGV sound come screaming out of the speakers. I always knew they had it in them, and I wanted to hear it live! Well, the boys have gained back any of the respect they'd lost with the fake BGV's of the past.

I don't know if it was just the weight of past sins being taken off my shoulders (or theirs), but this set just totally shredded! I've listened to *Swing Swang Swung* over 20 times and have begun to realize that, although different than the band's previous two albums, these songs are totally outstanding! Well, they're even better live. Tunes like "Way Home Back" and get the whole building, not just the audience, to feel like it's swinging. And, speaking of background vocals, the gang harmonies during "Endless Summer" were so full of passion and energy that it brings goose bumps just remembering it. And, speaking of goose bumps, the explanation Tony gave about losing his mother to death made the song "See You In Heaven" an unforgettable one.



Tony Palacios

What else can be said? Guardian rose to the challenge of being a real rock band, and they simply rose to the top! This show was awesome! Sure, Steve Taylor came out and had the audience in his back pocket with his witty tunes, cartwheels, and road tech acting out the role of "Banner Man," but it could not top what I had just seen and heard. Before I stop, though, let me say that Mr. Taylor's band wasn't pumping out new wave pogo music... These guys rocked! And they were extremely tight, too. Don't sell Steve Taylor short . . . and don't, by any means available to you, miss Guardian live.

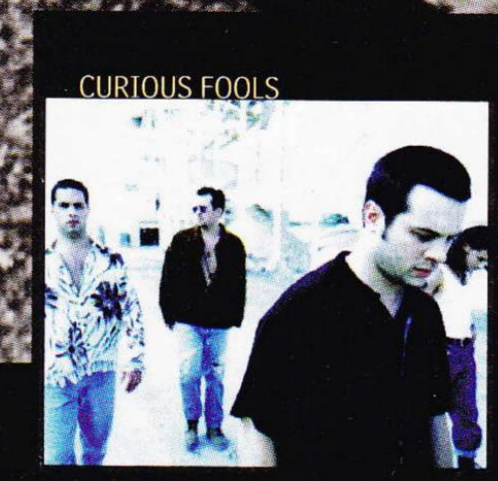
--Doug Van Pelt

[David Bach Photo by Tonia A. Yost]

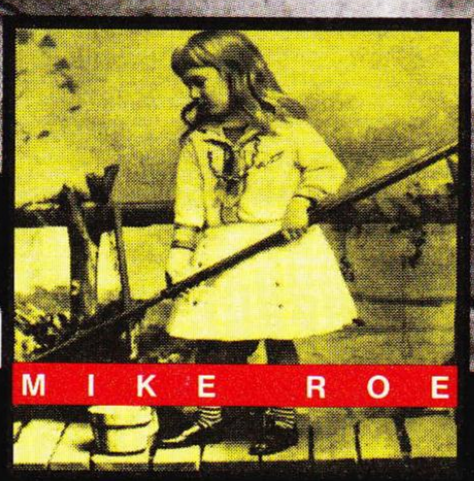
[Tony Palacios Photo © 1994 Greg Hand]

VIA RECORDS

VIA RECORDS



CURIOUS FOOLS
-CURIOUS FOOLS
MODERN/MOOD/
ROCK
AVAILABLE NOW



MIKE ROE
OF THE 77's
THE SOLO PROJECT
FEB. 17th

FELL VENUS
-@
INDUSTRIAL/
AGRESSIVE
MAR. 10TH

77's
THE BOX SET:
PING PONG OVER THE ABYSS
ALL FALL DOWN
77's
MAR. 24TH

VIA Records, Inc. 209 10th Ave S. Suite 344 Nashville, TN 37203
ph.615.320.7170. fax 615.320.7738.

MICHAEL SWEET

This big-time, long-awaited Michael Sweet tour package finally rolled into San Antonio, Texas in early November. Expecting to see some of the long lines that previous Stryper shows have brought, I was surprised to see little over 250 people inside the large club. Those inside, though, got treated to a musical meal consisting of three courses. All three acts would probably be classified as dessert, it was all performed at a pretty high level.

While both opening bands have had a pretty good showing with their debut projects, it was apparent that many in the audience still didn't know who they were. Nouveaux began the task of winning over the audience, which I think they pulled off with their quality melodic songs. While cranking out "We Believe" and "United We Stand," I think the crowd had temporarily forgotten who the headliner was. Half the crowd was still seated at a table or standing in the back, mind you, but the songs were connecting, if you can judge by heads nodding in approval. Imagine This came out amidst a loud intro track for "Revolution," the lead-off cut from their debut album, and proceeded to get the audience up front moving with the groove. The band's hard driving rhythms also served as a really good introduction to this new band. Now the audience knew what to imagine when they see the name Imagine This.

The biggest weakness to this night, which didn't evade Mr. Sweet's set either, was the ugly yet pristine presence of BGV tracks. I'm sure over 75% of the audience doesn't realize it at the time, but it has to sap the performer of authority to be real and honest from the stage when they are lip-synching the background vocals for the chorus. I remember standing right in front of the guitarist for Nouveaux and staring at him as he approached the microphone to "belt out" the beautiful chorus part. I don't know if I imagined this or not, but he looked a little uncomfortable, like he knew I knew. I know this is soapbox preaching during a concert review, but they're faking it! Something's radically wrong here!

Nevertheless, Michael Sweet and band, which was minus guitarist Dennis Cameron and bassist Scott Harper (Scott

Inset: Trey Hebert of Imagine This
Photos © Peter Petretta

"didn't work out," according to Michael, and Dennis the Canadian couldn't get his work Visa from theU.S. government). Mr. Cameron's replacement, by the way, was none other than Joey Tafolla, who's a big guitar hero in his own right. The new bassist mentioned to me how HM had helped build his faith in the last two years. (Cool!)

As with Stryper, Michael's melodic and commercial tunes have a great heaviness to them live. Maybe it's that volume! Tunes like "J.E.S.U.S." and "All This And Heaven Too" definitely conjure up images of the Stryper audiences on their feet during anthems like "Calling on You" and "Free." The song "Take Me Home" had tons o passion, as did the Stryper covers he did. Teasing the audience with the taped intro "The Abyss," the band rolled into "The Sing Along Song" instead. Quite a surprise was the Stryper-ized version of "Shining Star," which was full and energetic.

Like many a Christian heavy concert, it was disappointing that there weren't more people there to enjoy this fine music. But, if you think about all those gigs that bands like Van Halen and Led Zeppelin played in smaller venues before they broke, then you know it's just part of being an entertainer. Even though Sweet has paid the price, he's starting from scratch all over again.

--DV

GALACTIC COWBOYS

The Texas Music Showcase brought in Houston "art metal masters" Galactic Cowboys for a rousing 12-song set at the Steamboat club in Austin, Texas last October. Running late and dealing with a failing monitor system, the Cowboys put on an energetic set that they personally hated (musicians are such perfectionists!), yet the audience ate up with joy. Filling their set with five new songs, the Cowboys roared loud and heavy. Some of their new songs, which sport nick-names like "Rage," "Struggle," "Chia Butt," and "9th of June" (you can never be too sure of the accuracy of a set list drawn up by the band), are a little more groove and melodic oriented. Tunes like, "Mrs. Leslie," which they also played this night, and "I Do What I Do" are somewhat indicative of the band's new direction. It's still heavy and full of wonderful harmonies, which means they rely on the band's strengths, yet they zero in on those catchy hooks the band is also adept at creating.

Starting off with "If I Were A Killer," the band established that the stage was now clearly in their possession. They never let go until after the rousing bass intro/solo for "Sea of Tranquility." While the band didn't show the tightness of being in the middle of a tour (which isn't hard to guess, since this was a one-shot gig in the middle of their rehearsals for their new album), but it's hard to mess up really good songs. In what I suppose was one member taking up the slack due to the failing monitor system (there were times where Monty Colvin couldn't hear any bass at all on stage, even though the house system was pumping it out fine), guitarist Dane Sonier was wailing away and taking the front and center sonic stage more than I'd ever seen him do. He held the band together with a good dose of rabid riffing.

While all the guys in the band seemed to be apologetic for a poor performance after the show, I left the club humming the wonderful songs I'd heard and sported a smile all the way home.

--DV

PRAYER CHAIN
MORTAL

If I am not mistaken, this was the fourth time for Mortal to appear at Chelwood Four Square Gospel Church in Albuquerque. Not to worry about over-exposure, though, as we eagerly welcomed them back. Local instrumental band Sacred Curse opened up and, after some sound problems, proceeded to churn through their set. They have recently released a tape, and their brand of metal is not far removed from Fire Merchants (but, who remembers them?).

Next up was Prayer Chain, and they delivered a very energetic and enjoyable set. Tim Taber's voice sounds so much better live than on *Shawl*. They ripped through four new songs, including "Grylliade," "Creole," "Mercury," and "Waterdogs," during which Giles from Mortal played bongos. Overall, the crowd heard an awesome set from these guys.

Mortal followed, and the place was really buzzing by now. To put it simply, this was the best Mortal performance I have witnessed -- probably due to Gyro's newly revamped love for the one true God, not to mention the originality and quality of their newest material. "Alive and Awake" came early in their set, igniting the mosh pits. Band and crowd in harmony, a fun and worshipful time was had. Despite waiting in the rain and cold for almost two hours, this show was definitely worth the cash.

--Alex Cantwell

A.O.C.
Lord of Lords
King of Kings
RECORDS™

Presents

REVELATION

Debut Release

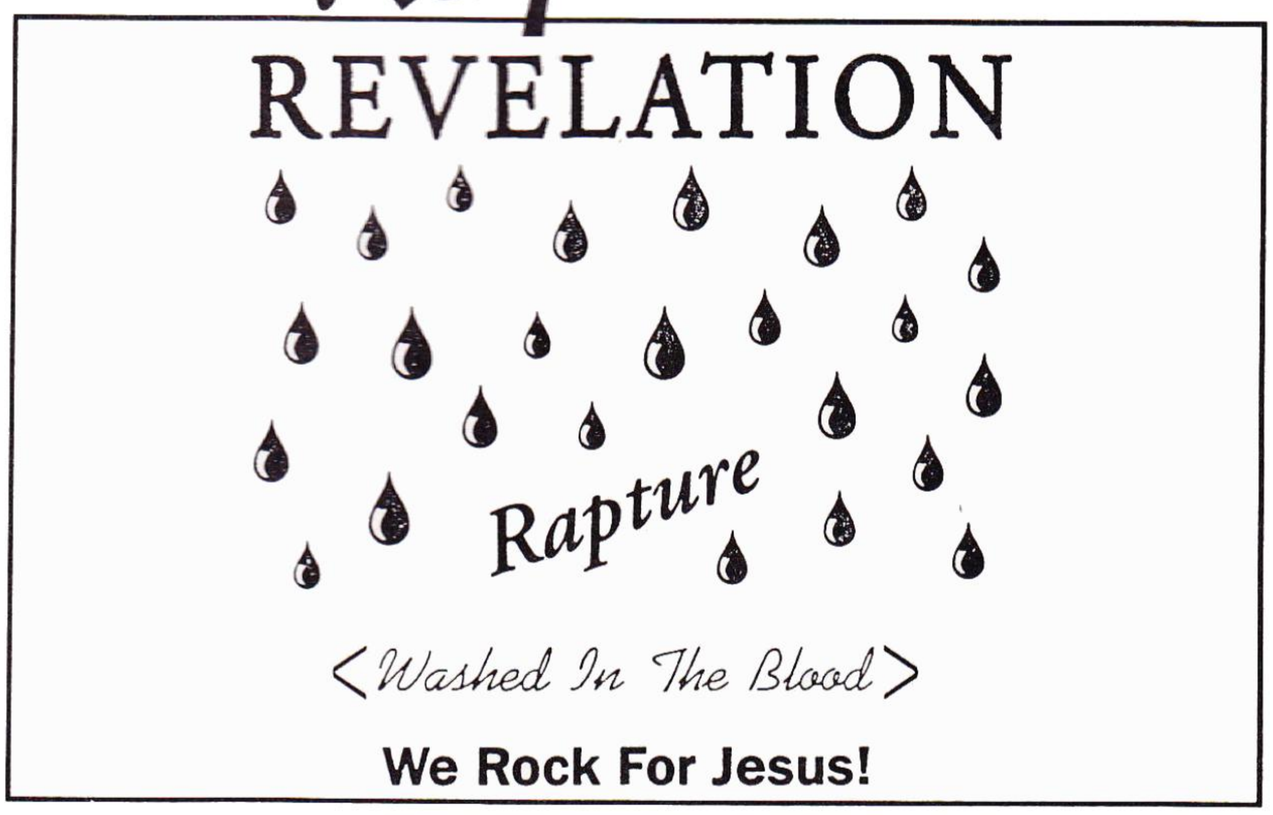
Rapture

A brilliant collection of classic rock with ministry based lyrics.

Buy an album now and receive
Bonus Bucks good for **$2.00 Off**
future purchases of Revelation merchandise.

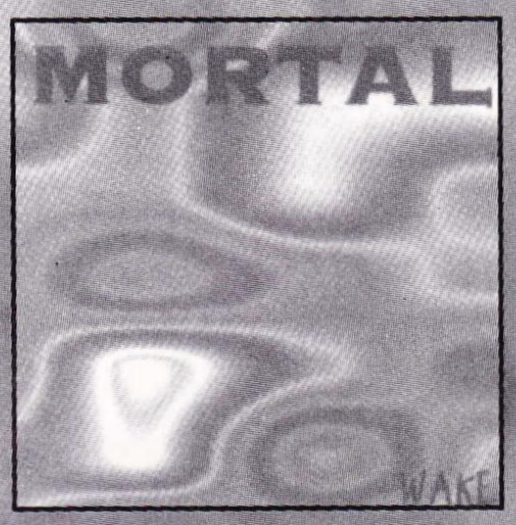
Call (715) 423-7675 for booking information.
Now booking Midwest dates.
Radio stations call for servicing.

Ordering information:
CD's: $13 Tapes: $10
2-Sided, Red, "Trash Satan" Shirt ...$18
1-Sided, Black, "We Rock For Jesus" Shirt $12
Bandannas: Choice of Red or Blue $8
Prices include shipping and handling. Checks payable to A.O.C. Records.
Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery



Send To:
A.O.C. Records
P.O. Box 983
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
54495-0983 HM #51

Heavenly Metal



Mortal
Wake
Intense

Curious Fools
Curious Fools
Via Records

Barren Cross
Barren Cross
Rugged Records

Red Sea
Blood
Rugged Records

Premium Cuts
Premium Cuts
Rugged Records

Circle Of Dust
Circle Of Dust
R.E.X.

Available at Camelot Music on January 24th!

Let Them Choose!
Gift Certificates

BIGGER BETTER
Over 50 Gift Selections To Choose From!

CAMELOT REPEAT PERFORMER™

NEW Frequent Buyer Program

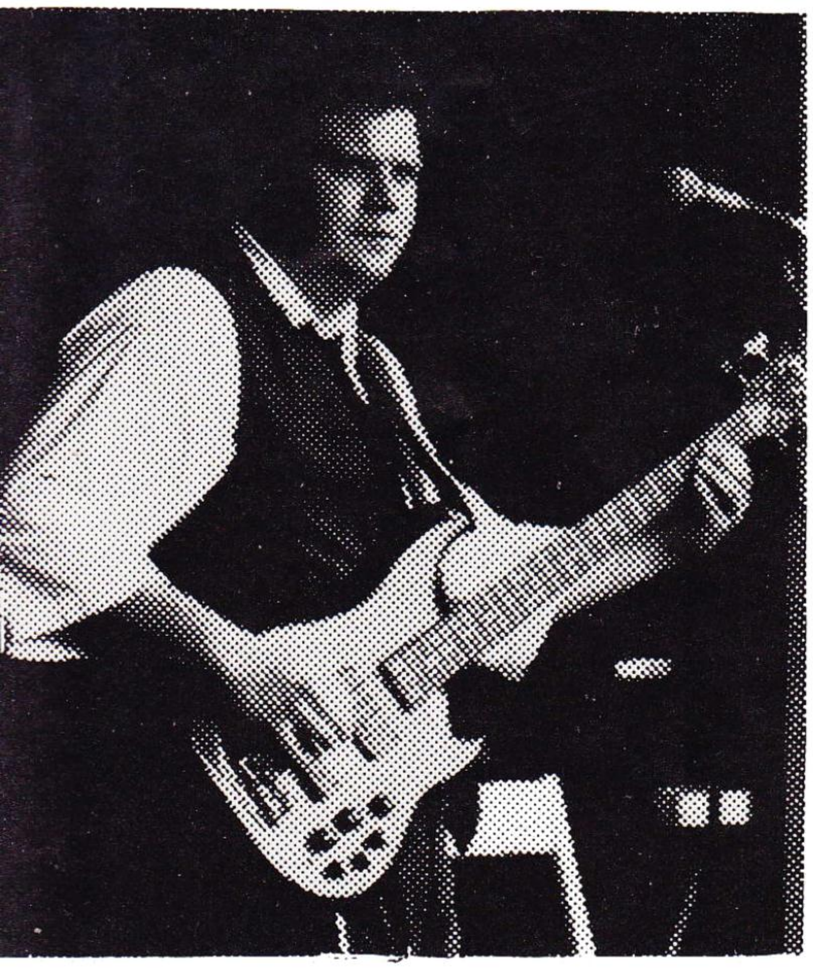
CAMELOT music

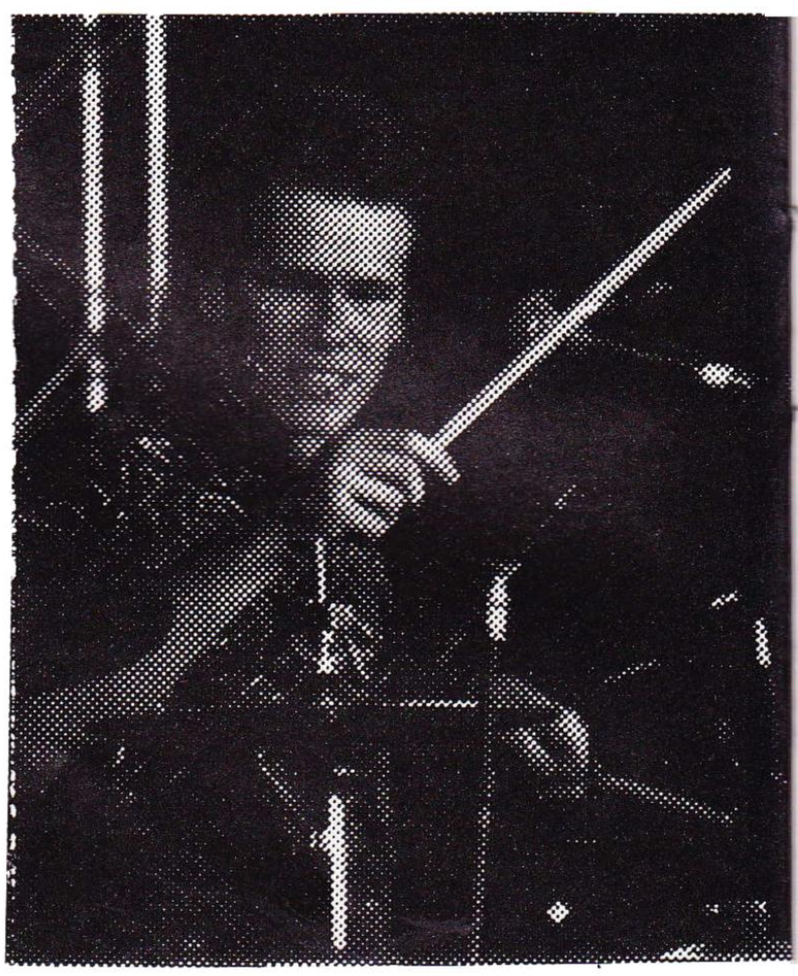
Available at all area Camelot Music Stores!

FOR EVERY AGE, THERES A BEGINNING AND AN END. . .

LAST GENERATION

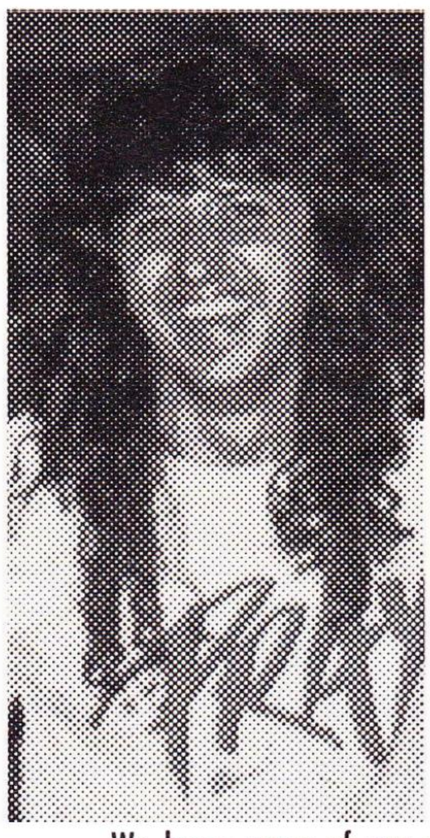
MATT. 24:34 - 35





For Booking Info, Tapes or Tees
L.G. Ministries
365 Hancock Rd.
Aiken, SC 29801
T-SHIRTS $12 • CD'S $12
Check payable to Last Generation

Artist Book Reviews By Scott Wenzel



We know many of you out there are interested in more information about the artists you listen to than just their favorite food and favorite color; like maybe what they've been reading lately? Therefore, we have started this new section, where artists have a chance to sound off about what books they've been reading lately. Starting off our first segment is Whitecross vocalist Scott Wenzel.

The Faithful Christian
Billy Graham
Compiled by William Griffin & Ruth Graham Dienert
McCracken Press

This book is the best of the best -- a collection of the most inspiring writings by one of the most, if not the most, credible evangelist of our day. Billy Graham is a man respected by men in all walks of life -- young and old, rich and poor. He's hung on tight to two things: his understanding and love for God; and reaching the entire world with the Gospel.

As you read this book, you'll find your self on page after page. You'll be enlightened and encouraged in your walk with God. The book is simply filled with God-given wisdom. Much of it may seem basic, black and white instruction, but when taken to heart, a rainbow of color lights up your soul.

As I read The Faithful Christian, I found myself viewing God in new ways. When questions arise, you can look through this book and, chances are, you'll find helpful insight. I highly recommend The Faithful Christian to all who call themselves Christians; but even more so to those on the outside of our faith, because after reading this book you will be closer to understanding the character of God, and, as a result, you'll want a real relationship with God.

The Body
Charles Colson
Word Publishing

This book is very deep. At first it offended me and I didn't want to finish it. Then, as I got deeper into it, it went on to explain itself. It shreds the "new, easy believe-ism," where being a Christian is very easy -- you go to church and you have a Bible in your home. We all agree with that, but it made me feel like we can never measure up, no matter how hard we try. That's how I felt at first. I thought, "Wow! Would anybody finish it?" They need to finish the book to understand what Charles Colson is trying to say. It's kinda scary.

The Faithful Christian is like a book where, if you have questions about God, or somebody on the street asks you questions about God, and you wanted to see what someone else thought about that, you could go to this book and there's an answer somewhere in it. It's Billy Graham's whole life of writing. He's a man of grace and he speaks grace. It's easier for my kind of personality to read a book like that and loving it. I just grab that kind of book and don't want to put it down. The Body shreds the "new church" and the new feelings of, "to get saved, all you do is say this prayer." That's true, because the Bible says that you're supposed to die daily and pick up your cross and follow Him. It gives you good insight, but I have a hard time with it, just because it's going to cause people to be turned off by their first look at it and they might not finish it. Books like that are hard for me. When I pick up a book, I want to feel good when I'm done. That may be weak, but I like positive instruction, because I get enough negatives throughout my day. It's not that this book gives you negatives, but it does at the same time.

Being a light in darkness is kind of the whole theme behind The Body. It shreds the weak church and the body, but all of us are nothing without God's grace at the same time. Lisa (my wife) and I have been talking about this in the last six months: You are who you are because of God's grace. Even when you choose to do right, it's because of God's grace in your life. And, if you really understand that, you have more understanding of people who haven't. It's not that we don't make decisions and live with those decisions -- whether it's good or bad -- it's that I really believe I've come to understand that God's grace is more important and more in our lives than what we even give credit to. I think when someone really does right in their life, they can't even take credit for that. I think it's the Spirit of God in us. All these things are in this book. Colson calls this the "celebrity syndrome." He says:

"How easily we are impressed with our selves and our own, inflated importance. How foolishly we seek our identity in office or a position in the church. Where were we when God created His church? We live and breath and serve in His pleasure. And if it were our church or our ministry, we'd fall miserably short. Is the instrument formaking disciples and for making men and women holy for the redemption of mankind in human hands? How absurd! 'I will build My Church,' said Jesus. Those unequivocal words should be posted over the entrance of every church building in the land."

What this book does is show where the church has gone wrong, and that's good. But, what's scares me about it, is I'm afraid the weaker Christian would just start reading and say, "No, I don't want it," and turn it away. All Christians need a slap in the face to wake up in different areas of their lives. We have dark closets that need to be opened and have the light shine to get rid of it and to straighten things out -- in order to be a faithful and powerful instrument in the body. That's what this book is all about: It's being a light in the darkness. It shines light in areas of your life that many people would be offended by at first. The ultimate goal of the book is to mold you into the image of Christ. It's not an easy path. It truly is like picking up your cross. You can feel it, and it's not a pleasant task. It really shows it throughout the book.

The Wind In The Wheat
Reed Arvin
Thomas Nelson

This is going to be a very interesting book! Just the title alone says a lot. What I'm thinking it's going to be about is the power of God's presence in your life. Even though you cannot see the wind, you can see it working as the wind blows through the wheat. Like Jesus said, you don't know where the wind is coming from or where it's going, but you see the results of it. I don't know where the book is going, because I haven't had a chance to finish reading it yet, but I think the result will be insight into the journey a Christian musician takes.

Sometimes a Christian artist can be filled with all these kinds of wondrous ideas and expectations of what this journey is going to be like and what the music industry should be and what it really is. Many times reality hits and it flies in your face and wakes you up. I've seen that in my own life. I mean, it was like "Wake Up City" going out on that first Steve Taylor tour (where Whitecross opened up)! If the title is at all indicative of the plot, then there'll be a good ending where God's Spirit moves in the life of the main character -- a farmer from Kansas whose heart God puts a song in and who proceeds to Nashville to make music.

I'm totally hungry to read this book . . . even after Thanksgiving!

Scott is a faithful Christian who has built up the body of Christ with his band Whitecross for the past seven years.

Future Book Reviews will be written by Michael Bloodgood, Dale Thompson, and others.

HEAVEN'S METAL HOTLINE

GET THE NEWS FIRST
GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED
HEAR NEW MUSIC NOW
UPDATED EVERY MONDAY
SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS & WE'LL PICK TWO OF 'EM TO ANSWER EVERY WEEK

1-900-990-0085 EXT. 107
$2 PER MINUTE WITH 5 MINUTE MAX LIMIT
AVERAGE LENGTH OF CALL -- 4 MINUTES
AVERAGE COST OF CALL -- $8
MAXIMUM COST -- $10

HEAVEN'S METAL, AUSTIN, TX / UNDER 18 GET YOUR PARENT'S PERMISSION / TOUCH-TONE REQUIRED

ALBUM REVIEWS

PRECIOUS DEATH
If You Must
Metro One

I don't know how an artist who releases a mind-blowing debut album can release a follow-up that is better than its predecessor... After about 30 listens to *If You Must*, I still like *Southpaw* better. It wasn't an easy decision to make, however, for this album has plenty to like about it. For one, PD hasn't decided to rest on its laurels and stay in a comfortable crunchy groove. These progressive boys have instead pursued a course of new direction and sounds. Shades of hardcore intensity rear its head here, as well as some mood altering songs that travel through a melodic landscape of soft, contemplative picking accompanied by subdued singing that segues into some grunge-like loud riffing. Of course, there's also the usual progressive crunch jamming these guys are known for; and Christopher Scott's vocals are as rich and strong as ever.

"You Can't Break Me," like its name implies, starts off the record with all the power and conviction of a Biohazard or Crucified -- which really comes off in the group chanted chorus lines. The verse sections each begin with a classic Galactic Cowboys - like groove crunch. The lyrics take a powerful approach to the argument that there are no absolutes. Both the music and lyrics compliment each other perfectly for a knockout punch.

The crunch that has been spoken of so much comes from Mr. David Bishop, one of the only 90's guitarists who still plays a flying-V. Of course, his crunch is supported by the tight synchronization between drummer Roger Sampson and bassist Andy Koehler. These guys are impressive. They've done what's called "rehearse." The guitar tones vary all over the album and always shine brightly, whether it's complimenting Chris' voice on the melodic lines of "You're Gone, I'm Here," or bringing it on home with the boys in the title track.

The oddity on this album is the science babble track "Oscillating Fullwave Bridge Rectifiers," which just has to be Bishop and Koehler going after each other in a game of engineering one-upmanship or something. Maybe it's Dust-Buster wars?

Lyrically, the song "E" is a bit odd. It's an homage to the "E," which could be anything from electricity to the open E-chord on the air guitar, or maybe it's even idol worship of Elvin Hayes, the former Washington Bullets basketball star (affectionately called "The Big E"). This will have to be the first question asked in the next interview.

One of the standout moments comes in the gripping "All Over Now," which starts off with an ebbing guitar pick as the singer laments hurt and the pain of the price of sin. The song goes over the top with the middle section/chorus, which proclaims, "It's all over now!" As in its debut album, the band has shied away from the typical and obvious musical and lyrical direction taken by their peers. This album is original and powerful -- "powerfully original," if you must. Because of its uniqueness, it requires attention, lots of it. After 30 listens, I'm still just beginning to figure it out. While these death boys may be a little too progressive for their own good, they're not so self-indulgent to forget that their audience is listening. I'd give it an 85, but I wouldn't want to dance to it.

--Doug Van Pelt

BARREN CROSS
Rattle Your Cage
Rugged

Whoa, Nelly! Them Barren Cross boys have returned! And they act like they have something to prove! Barren Cross, who I used to think would become more popular than Stryper, was definitely a favorite of the majority of Christian metalheads only a short six years ago. Now they've got to prove they can still stretch those arms and legs (but not in those spandex uniforms, please!) and kick out the jams. Not only that, but they must prove that they're relevant and not just a nostalgia trip. Well, the proof is all on tape (and compact disc) for everyone to hear -- Barren Cross is back, and they deserve your attention.

While their three tunes on *Premium Cuts* already proved (in my mind) that the band was on the right track, these other new tunes take the band to the next level. In fact, I'd just as soon skip over the old cuts when I here this full-length album on CD. While "Here I Am," "Midnight Son" and "Time For Love" wet my appetite for more Barren Cross, this new stuff satisfies my belly. The title track, which leads off the album, certainly lives up to its name for those who think that the true power metal sound is going to just lie dormant and die. Jim LaVerde's bass tones immediately jump out of the mix and scream, "I'm relevant! I shake your bones! I'll bust your speakers!" Attention all metalheads: This is an album to get excited about!

Does anybody doubt my word here? Just crank up "Unsuspecting." This song kills, and it spits, and itenergizes. Vocally, Mike Lee tips his hat in the spit angry direction of Dave Mustaine. The rumbling bass tone is over the top here, complimenting the biting guitar tone of Ray Parris. This is the one song I keep coming back to again and again. "Feed The Fire" is an out 'n' out 4/4 rocker! Ya gotta hear the "thump-thump-thumpa-thump" rhythm these guys hold down. It's like an angry, angry AC-DC minor riff that keeps kicking. Lyrically, it's along the lines of "Stage of Intensity," as it describes a concert audience getting all fired up about being fed some killer music. Sometimes, as in this song and the title track, Mike Lee's vocals do sound a bit trite as they conjure up the old Manowar/ Saxon metal image of one leather-spiked fist in the air. Most everywhere else, though, they really sound good.

On the other side of the musical spectrum, the ballad, "Let It Go, Let It Die" is an awesome work of penmanship. Check out this line in the context of someone who's been hurt by another: "Jesus said, 'Let it go, and let it die/ I paid for that brother's wrongs with My life.'" Whoa! I don't know about you, but I call that gut wrenching and powerful!

Some of the other tunes find the band taking a melodic/ commercial approach. It's not really in the same direction as the Elefante-produced early BC, but more akin to the commercial hits of Iron Maiden in the late 80's. "No Time To Run" is a perfect example, with its relaxed guitar strumming and clean, story-telling vocals. Speaking of stories, there's one in "JRM" about a boy-girl situation that gets a little funny.

Like most albums, there's a couple songs that are average-to-great, but the standout cuts here are so hot that I want to make this album a regular part of my musical diet for a while.

--DV

DELIVERANCE
River Disturbance
Brainstorm

Okay, we see new hair styles? How about new musical styles? Well, not really. Jimmy Brown and Co. pretty much keep traveling in the direction that was first charted with the *Stay of Execution* album. We still hear a theatrical "David Bowie meets Eric Clayton" vocal sound layered on top of a full and heavy bottom end and progressive chord structures -- almost like mixing the dreamy high end with the doomy low end.

Lyrically, Jimmy

end times© clothing co.

official sponsor of: P.O.D.

Grava ENTERPRISES
12520 kirkham ct. №4 / poway, ca 92064
ph: 619•486•0073 fx: 619•486•1651

1$= info

INTENSE Records

OWE PRODUCTIONS

NUCLEAR BLAST

POWER METAL

MORTIFICATION

POWER METAL

BLOODWORLD TOUR

THE AMAZING ONSLAUGHT CONTINUES..

As the world's youth feeds on the music of

MEGADETH METALLICA PANTERA

a voice from Down Under shouts out a message of hope.
From their grinding beginnings, Australia's Mortification has grown into one of the world's modern power metal bands.
Come and share the power and the majesty.
Bring your friends and experience the supreme Godly force.

New album coming soon!

Tour information

Thursday 2nd Feb - San Francisco, CA.
Promoter - Patrick (510) 538 5737.

Friday 3rd. Feb - Sacramento, CA.
Promoter - Freddie Z. (916) 743 6720

Venue - Calvery Chapel. Calvery Refuge - 7322 Falsom Blvd. Sacramento, CA.

Saturday 4th. Feb - Lancaster, near Los Angeles.
Promoter - Dave Hoyle (805) 273 2879
(805) 943 9534

Venue - The Twilight Building 45 373 North Division Lancaster CA.

Sunday 5th Feb - San Diego CA.
Promoter - Guy Barnes (619) 480-1230

Wednesday 8th Feb. Phoenix, Az.
Promoter - Randy Rocker (602) 921 8939

Friday 10th Feb - Alberqerque, NM.
Promoter - Robert Gutiereez (505) 881 7711

Saturday 11th Feb - Pueblo Colorado.
Promoter - Stefan Soto (719) 545 3152

Venue - 611 West Main, Pueblo.

Thursday 16th Feb - Omaha, Nebraska.
Promoter - Johny Dale.

Friday 17th Feb - Kansas Mo.
Promoter - Sheldon Kalevig (816) 753 8544

Venue - New Earth. 40th Walnut Kansas City, Mo.

Saturday 18th Feb - Mineapolis Minesota.
Promoter - Nancy Aleksuk (612) 379 2858

Venue - New Union. 507 East Hennepin, Mineapolis.

Tuesday 21st Feb - Austin, Texas.
Promoter - Blanch Pall (512) 264 2994

Friday 24th Feb - Atlanta.
Promoter - Marty Bush (404) 319 7064

Venue - The Strand, 107 North Park Square Marietta, Atlanta. **Recording new live album and video. Be there to get your face on camera and voice on tape.**

Saturday 25th Feb - Tampa FL.
Promoter - Kit Karl (816) 725 2717.

ROWEAD MM003

Brown seems to be continuing down the road of more and more introspection juxtaposed with the character of God. Sometimes Jimmy will write about darker themes, such as the casual non-value of life and ongoing destruction addressed in "Belltown," but that's certainly not the focus of the entire album The enduring love his wife gives him is revealed in the touching and musically haunting ballad, "U Still Smile," and the bigness and awesomeness of God and His forgiveness is explored in the title track and "After I Fell," which reminds me of the tune "1990" from the *Learn* album.

The hallow guitar tones in "After I Fell" add to the track's somber tone, and give it a U2-like atmospheric mood. This seems to musically emphasize the vulnerability of man, while the keys in the title track add a similar feel, albeit more power oriented, which seems to help emphasize the awesome grace of God.

The searing lead guitar playing in "Speed of Light" still show the band's roots in classic metal, which could have just as easily been found on a Rainbow, Maiden, or Queensryche album (I'll bet Jimmy tires of seeing that last band's name in his album reviews!).

"A Little Sleep" is the long-awaited full-on collaboration with rap group 12th Tribe. The result is a lot heavier than anything you'd hear on MTV rap slots. The crunching rhythm makes sure of that. The song takes a real look at the Bible's warnings about laziness, with Jimmy's self-harmonized voice tackling the chorus and the 12th Tribe dudes doing a cool job of delivering the verses.

As with the past two Deliverance albums, the production direction of Terry Taylor can be felt. It is most obvious here in the Deliverance original "Map," which sounds like a Daniel Amos tune played at the heavy Deliverance decibel levels. While it's harder to pick the standout cuts than it has been on past Deliverance albums, since this one is moodier, but it keeps a consistent vibe for over 48 minutes. Call it a good album with few surprises.

--DV

MORTAL
Wake
Intense

With the purchase of Mortal's final release, *Wake*, Mortal fans may be caught slightly off-guard -- aslisteners may expect something comparable to their previous album, *Fathom*. However, upon closer inspection, it will soon be apparent that this release is chock-full of surprises.

One of the changes which one will soon discover is that Mortal is no longer just Jyro and Jerome, but two other well-talented musicians have been "mortalized" as well -- Troy Yasuda and Ed Giles Benrock (who played with L.S.U.).

Perhaps the biggest adjustment Mortal fans will have to make with this release is in the band's slightly more mellow musical style. Don't get me wrong, though, Mortal does have some really intense and speedy tunes on *Wake*; however, overall it may be safe to conclude that this release bears little resemblance musically to both *Fathom* and *Lusis*. The industrial/dancy sound found on their first two releases is now replaced by a really grungy-
sounding musical style. This is quite evident in songs like "Filter;" and, in "June First" and "Oceanful," one may detect hints of a Nirvana-type sound.

Also notable on *Wake* are several ballads -- "Speed of Sound," "Fall," a short, but very beautiful song, and "god of three strings." As well, included is an instrumental piece, "Vial," a very emotionally-charged track. "Vial" creates an almost paradise-like atmosphere (like walking on a beach), though it seems to be tainted with some very strong feelings of sadness, waiting, and contemplation.

The final two tracks deserve special mention: "Nowhere Man," which utilizes the original McCartney/Lennon harmony vocal style, and "To My Darling Whippoorwill," which essentially may be Mortal's parting words, though the lyrics are almost entirely masked by voice distortion.

Although *Wake* is very different than *Fathom*, one must appreciate their change of musical direction. This release definitely showcases Mortal's trademark innovative style, and throughout the album's tracks, their always intelligent and thought-provoking lyrical content is once again evident. *Wake* is definitely worthy of your inspection, as this album is a very fitting conclusion to the Mortal legacy.

--Jeremy Choi

CURIOUS FOOLS
Curious Fools
Via

Do you ever get that heavy, heavy sigh when you walk through the door of your favorite Gospel record store (or shall I say bookstore?), shake your head at that wall of tapes, wondering which one could possibly fill that need for soul motivating, great music? Are you one of those who scoff at album reviews and the reviewer's opinionated half-truths, and somewhat misleading representations? Do you ever wonder why it's so difficult to find gut wrenching, heart on the sleeve rock bands that are dedicated to seeking the Lord -- the common ground between all of us in the body of Christ . . . is anyone at all curious?

VELOCIPEDE

a two piece band
in true indie
rock fashion

produced by
chris colbert

THE CHOIR

"You take a shovel
Hey I appreciate
A true tone
to my head
that sound
resonating"
.....Speckled Bird

WHITECROSS

Ladies and gentlemen:
the new Whitecross
Unveiled

produced by
jimmy lee sloas

CIRCLE DUST

The new release featuring new recordings of songs from the original debut plus new material

"impressive enough to be included with the other cyber-core visionaries"
--PULSE!

(Available in general market stores only)

R.E.X. MUSIC

WRITE TO GET ON THE MAILING LIST/R.E.X. Music, P.O. Box 25269, Nashville, TN 37202

Well, these Curious Fools have burst on to the scene with their first full-length recording. Although I personally have only known of them opening for The 77's, this was my first taste of their rich, lush music. This is definitely a guitar band, with a tapestry of keyboard backdrops . . . and one quite emotional singer. The songs bleed with passion and energy- and catchy bass guitar riffs -- Imagine a big, healthy steak on the plate in front of you -- Mmm good.

Bass player Wade Jaynes (Steve Taylor, Chagall Guevara) and guitarist Jimmy A. (Vector, Charlie Peacock) are added to the Fool's pallet of color. And the colors run thick and deep on this record. The wonderfully, risky highlights include the psychedelic and dreamy "What You Got," "Unbalanced" and the chilling "You Kill Me." The album, as a complete work, has very few holes and is an intense piece of art -- from the packaging to song structure, it's worth your hard-earned dollar.

Some of you out there may find searching for quality Gospel music meeting your personal expectations rather difficult . . . And some of us can let it slip if the band has at least got a believable passion about them . . . Lucky for us, Curious Fools have both passion and integrity to provide us with one incredible debut.

--Chris Taylor

MAGNIFIED PLAID
Pokinatcha
Tooth & Nail

Pokinatcha, the debut release from Magnified Plaid, contains everything, including the kitchen sink. This trio from Washington, which musically sounds like a conglomeration of The Ramones, Green Day, The Pixies, andBlenderhead, have a real hit on their hands. Their sound, dubbed "melodic punk," is not as chaotic as most punk bands' sounds, though it could hardly be classified as "wimpy," either, as Mike, the lead vocalist and bassist, has a natural punk voice. There is a positive aggression, which comes out of the music, which one may sense rather quickly. As well, *Pokinatcha* has a really great raw, garage-sound feel.

Generally speaking, the tracks on *Pokinatcha* are speedy and short (there are 21 songs on the album). Numbers like "Weak" and "Unopposed" are some of the faster songs on the album, creating an impression that the members of the band are late for a meeting or a previous engagement. In songs like "The Aspect," one may wonder if Yuri, the drummer, ever gets exhausted from all the rapid drum work. Andy, the guitarist, plays a variety of musical styles with ease. This is evidenced in tracks such as "Too Much Thinking," where the intro sounds like great summer driving music; and "Dead End," among others.

Lyrically, the material is presented in a very straight-forward, "speak your mind" fashion, yet at the same time, the lyrics provoke much reflection. In "Weak," there is a clear acknowledgement of God's strength and power, while in "Twisted Words," the band sings about people who twist words around, chaning their meaning.

There is a fair share of humor on this album. For instance, in the romantic-punkish tune "Want Ad," the writer wants a girl who "buys me Coke/someone who laughs at all my jokes..." They are quite blunt in "Another Song About TV," in which the refrain echoes "TV sucks!" (the two or three screams in the song remind me of a harder-sounding One Bad Pig). Perhaps the most hilarious track (and the most catchy) is "Bad Hair Day," in which one can sense a definite Ramones influence.

Overall, *Pokinatcha* by Magnified Plaid is highly recommended. Musically, it has a very wide appeal to varying punk styles, and is very easy to get into. Tooth & Nail has really scored a big one in this release!

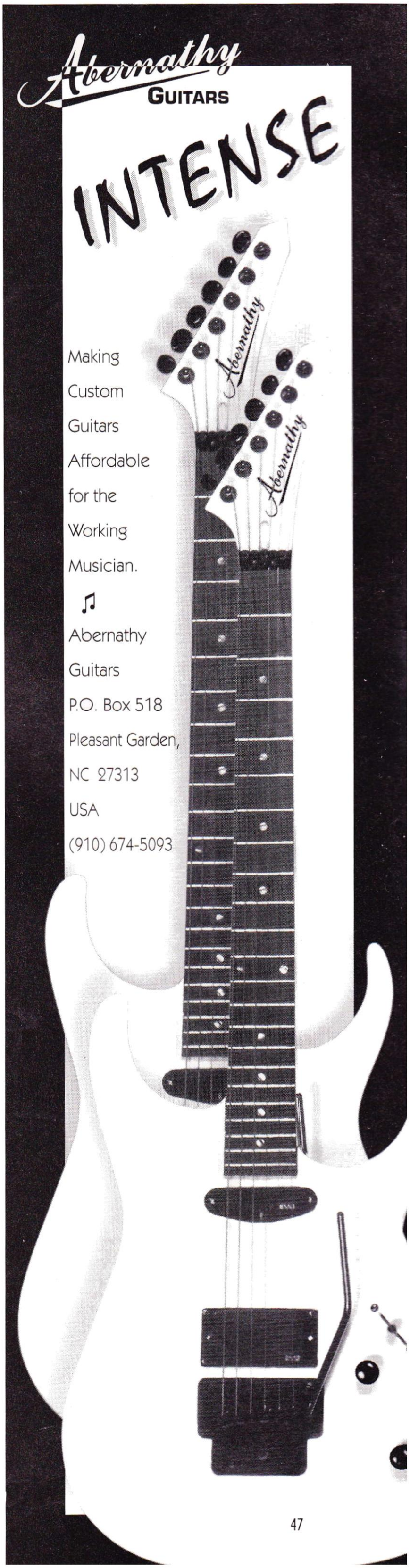
--Jeremy Choi

Michael Knott
Rocket & A Bomb
WAL
Grace Shaker
Frontline

Back more years than he'd probably care to realize, Michael Knott dramatically effected Christian music with the album *Shaded Pain*. Being the first CCM album to touch on dark themes, *Shaded Pain* became a classic. For many people, those were the days when Michael Knott was truly at his best.

After numerous good follow-ups, Knott seems to have entered a new level of even greater creativity as powerful today as *Shaded Pain* was in the 80's. *Rocket And A Bomb* takes a Dylan-ish story-telling approach recalling memories from Knott's most formative years as he lived in a crazy apartment complex on Sunset Strip in Hollywood, and when he actually had to live in someone's closet so he could afford to do ministry as a youth pastor. The album tells of people he met, like John Barrymore, who tried to give Mike a spanking, and Kitty Courtesy, whom Mike swears cooked her husband. More than anything, these songs look inside the heart of a young Christian truly struggling to find God's will and do it in the presence of opposition and insanity.

Secondly, *Grace Shaker* moves everywhere on the musical chart, with songs like the full acoustic "Double," the alternative pop "Thinking," the worshipful "Grace," and the classic L.S.U. styled "Freedom." This



DANGER! HIGH VOLTAGE ABOVE

the NEW album from

DBB

DEVEN BERRYHILL BAND

HIGH VOLTAGE!
GROOVE
with an
Alternative
STATE OF MIND

Available NOW

Distribution by

Rolltop music group

For more information call (619) 571-1645

For mail order information, or to get on our mailing list, write P.O. Box 17203, San Diego, CA 92177

ROLLTOP RECORDS

album takes more of a conceptual angle, beginning with a Christian man in a bar drinking and contemplating all the hurt in his life and then moving to a realization of the grace that frees. The album also talks about people who try to bring condemnation to this person once he's accepted God's grace, with the response simply being "Christ saves."

Musically, these albums are phenomenal, showing Knott's immense growth in writing brilliant pop. However, what makes these albums truly great is their openness. Knott lays it all on the line, revealing his innermost fears and hurts, leaving himself open to judgment, criticism, and possibly even ridicule. An album can only be so emotional without honestly opening yourself up as Knott has done. When Knott cries for "Grace," the listener feels as if he too is calling out to God. While in the hands of the legalistic, these albums will be controversial (as every Knott album is), but for those that live in reality, Knott has recorded two albums that will truly pierce the heart.

--David Jenison

AMY WOLTER
Hit Me In The Heart
WAL

Those who ever caught some of the heartland rock leanings found on Fighter's *Bang The Drum* album will be glad to hear lead vocalist Amy Wolter taking this approach on a few of the tunes found on *Hit Me In The Heart*.

"There Won't Be A Next Time" starts the album with a rockin' anthem that showcases Amy's clean voice in a comfortable range that makes this one an easy pick as a radio single. Tunes like "The Promise" and "Blue Skies" seem to settle into a groove more closely associated to the dance pop of a Kathy Tricolli than a rockin' Margaret Becker -- complete with keys that sound like a horn section. Speaking of Marge, the tune "Oils On This Canvas" sounds like something from her *Simple House* pop rock album.

It seems that Wolter is trying to cover a lot of ground here -- her first album away from Fighter. Therefore, it makes sense that her best song is the ballad "We All Need," which is one of three she penned completely by herself. The pop rock anthem "Be That Child," another tune she wrote, is a great reminder of how God wants us to be with Him. This one will endear her to a lot more fans than she's ever reached before. As a whole, this album will accomplish the same feat.

--DV

NEW BREED WORSHIP BAND
New Breed Worship
New Breed

Here's another fine release in the rockin' worship genre. While some of the other rock worship albums that were released featured solo artists, this one captures a consistent band feel throughout. While not a live album, per se, there is some "worship leading" spoken parts that facilitate a real worship experience for those used to worshipping in a large setting.

While some of the titles may sound like familiar tunes, most of these are relatively new songs. The most recognizable may be "Glory," which declares, "Glory, glory in the highest/ Glory, to the Almighty/ Glory to the Lamb of God/ Glory to the Living Word..."

Unlike the aforementioned rock worship releases, this album seems to use standard instruments and have a rock style without trying to or claiming to be "rock worship." The tune "On And On" has a punk rock-a-billy feel to it, with jangly guitars and country vocal twang. "Hail The King" sounds like a cross between early Undercover and The Holidays.

The song "Healing Word," on the other hand, creates a very cool mood that opens the listener to absorb and sing the words out. For sing-along ability, the song "Holy Is The Lamb" is a real good one that offers a funky beat to accompany the verses. "Psalm 9" offers a cool little riff to sing on top of as well.

While these guys know better than to release a cheesy-sounding worship album (which it isn't), it still doesn't rise up to the level of a "put this in as background music, ignore the words, and be swept away with world class music." The Vineyard Church has quite a bit of talent, and this album only hints at what it could do. The one tune where all the talent an musical feel seems to come together is in "Nicene Creed."

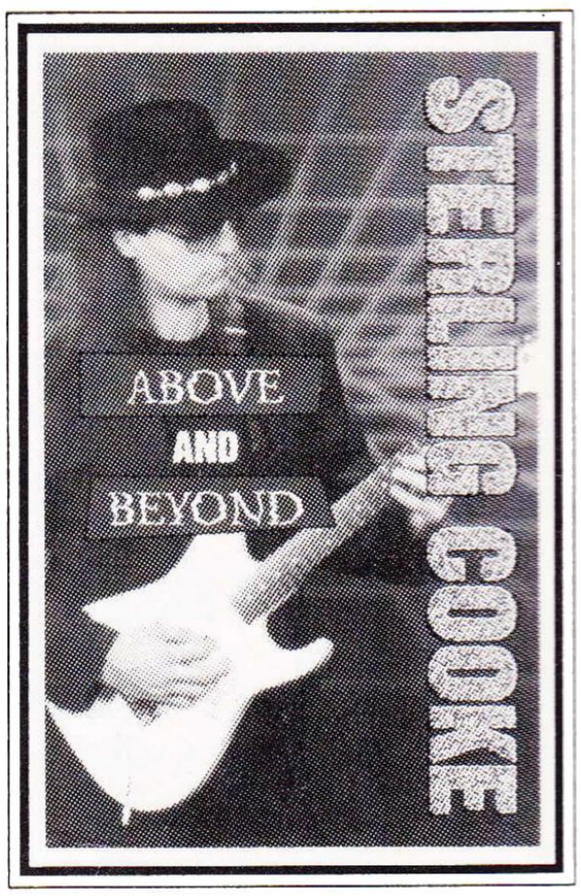
--DV

Tastes Like Chicken

Moo Town Records has released another compilation album of 16 unsigned artists. The styles vary, but most fit into the modern rock genre, which means some of it's heavy and some of it ain't so heavy. Because this whole scene is huge, you see a lot of bands that fit into a college rock/modern rock/grunge category. **Immortal Chorus** and **Jawbone Hill** mix this whole style with a little bit of U2 emotion and hollow guitar tones. These bands are worth keeping an eye on. I really like the Jawbone Hill tune "Mae." **Cain's Pain** knows how to get a good fuzz out of its guitar cabinets as well, as evidenced in "I Should." **Third Day** does its best Pearl Jam emotive in "Mama," without never doing an Eddie Vedder explosion. The band **f.o.i.** gets the award for loudest and dirtiest guitar tone, on its mysterious "Black Point."

The most memorable song is the

Sing unto HIM a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise. PSALM 33:3



STERLING COOKE

Christian Music's Hot New Guitarist

ABOVE AND BEYOND

His Powerful Christian Music Debut

". . . the explosive dual influence of Joe Satriani and Stevie Ray Vaughan pervade Sterling's instrumentals . . ."
—GUITAR WORLD MAGAZINE

MAIL ORDER
$10.00 Check or Money Order Payable to:

FULL FORCE MUSIC
P. O. Box 187
Tamaqua, PA 18252-0187

Dealer Inquiries, Distributors, etc.
Call (717) 385-1866

chilling Lou Reed-like tune, "Incest In America," by **Bob Riley & the Fishers**. The prettiest and most atmospheric moment comes from both **Dan Michaels**' (The Choir) solo tune accompanied by his lyricon; and **Burning Icons**, with "Why." This is a good CD that could fill up an hour's worth of college radio air time easily. For ordering info, write: PO Box 724973, Atlanta GA 31139.

--DV

KERYGMA CHILD

What is that smell on your breath, young man? Have you been drinking "Tie Dye Wine" again? Oh, you haven't? What's that, you say? Oh, okay, you have been listening to Kerygma Child's new self-titled album. So, what is "Tie Dye Wine" about? Simple, do you follow the stars? How about the New Age Movement? Or do you just follow yourself? Heard of following this dude called Jesus? Too easy, you say? Listen to this disc and judge for yourself. This is a must in any rock collection! Jeremy West rips on bass, while Kevin Molway keeps the beats and breaks in line. Josh adds plenty of rip-roaring guitar on top of that heavy rhythm section, while Lance Christian wails on vocals. When these guys play, you can "Feel The World." This song is a fun one that will have everyone in your car headbanging! There are also a couple of slow acoustic tracks that will help you unwind after a long, hectic day. This is a great CD! Jam on! For ordering info, contact: 716 Euclid Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24502.

--Jason Clifton

HEROZ

Have you been looking for a hero? Then maybe you should check out Heroz from Steubenville, Ohio. This is a band that all tastes will enjoy and want in their music collection. Rusty Yanok's vocals are wonderful on this album -- *Milestone*. There is a great variety of musical styles on this disc, from fast 'n' punchy songs like, "You Gotta Rock" and "Nothin' To Prove," to the sweet acoustic sounds of "He Rose" and "Never Alone." I will definitely add this disc to my collection. For ordering info, contact: RD #1, Box 344A, Suite 1, Steubenville, OH 43952.

--JC

REVELATION

In the mid-80's I would have thought this a pretty cool album. Unfortunately, for the sake of this band, it's the mid-90's and it's sad to say, but *Rapture* is a little dated. Those harmonically chimed notes with the whammy bar vibrato over eighth note power chords smacks a bit much like classic metal and a bit less of creativity.

Although I didn't have a lyric sheet, their songs leave no question of their stand for God. Apart from Revelation's style, I also felt they were holding back; not going for that aggression or passion that seems to separate the men from the boys. Production was decent and I am able to enjoy the slower songs. I might recommend it to those who like Barren Cross and enjoy encouraging lyrics. For ordering info, write: A.O.C. Records, PO Box 983, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-0983.

--Mitch Roberts

FEAST OR FAMINE

Try as I might, it's hard for me to be critical of this album. Straight-ahead rock and roll is as strong as ever. That's how I would sum up this CD. *Lost Again* contains 11 well-produced tuens with an underlying southern feel. The vocalist reminds me of David Coverdale minus the whiskey throat. The other three members of the band give very sturdy support. The basic theme of the album seems to be about that inner vexation that occurs when one lets worldly distractions interfere with our walk in the Spirit. But, then again, I could be way off. Anyway, they do this with flavoring from Stone Temple Pilots, maybe a little Bride, and some REZ thrown in for good measure.

The only thing that would keep this band from air time on Zrock would be major distribution and one of those $1,000 per hour producers. This is still a very good buy, though. For info, write: 116 Union Ave SE #4, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4414.

--MR

DIVINE REGALE

My first question was "What is a band this cool doing with a five-song CD demo release?" These guys should be on a major label. Heralding from Dover, New Hampshire, Divine Regale has put together a very nice demo. The sonics are great. I would even go so far as to put this in the Queensryche/Dream Theater category.

The first song, "Dawn," sets the pace with an aggressive but short introduction into "Horizon," which speaks of personal reflection and perspective. "Under World" continues with a dark feeeling, like the one the world around us creates. "Missing" gives six minutes of a lost girl looking for identity. "Fear The Storm" finishes the album with an apocalyptic apprehension in mind.

Although I'm not positive of the lyrical content, I am positive I was very impressed by the artistic imagery and seamless production. If you're into progressive rock and emotional introspection that serious music can give, then this one is a must. Look forward to hearing from these guys in the future. In the meantime, write to: 54 Piscatagua Rd, Dover NH 03820.

--MR

DANDELION MYTH

When I first popped this CD in, I thought, "Man, this is so familiar!" Then my wife said, "Love Coma!" Sure 'nuff, vocalist Chris Taylor of Love Coma produced *Fish Out, Out Of Water*. And a fair job he did, too. Sonic quality is good throughout, although there is a bit of hallowness sifted in, which is not necessarily a bad thing. One might compare it to The Cure with the funk of the Red Hot Chili Peppers (before they began to rap so much) mixed with that natural folkiness of Mazzy Star.

Though no lyric sheet was provided, they are clear and intelligible. Each song bounces along, giving this album a very up-beat and sometimes silly feel to it. Too many of today's bands take themselves too seriously, which makes Dandelion Myth all the more refreshing.

If you like playing frisbee on the beach on a warm spring day listening to funky praise songs, then this is the perfect album. Write to: 1003 Donaldson, San Antonio TX 78228.

--MR

LIGHTFORCE

If this name rings a bell, it's because this is a special CD re-issue that Steve Rowe of Mortification put together to document the beginnings of his present band. Of course, I hated the *Mystical Thieves* album by Light Force when it came out. Listening to it now, the sonic rough edges almost make more sense, but I still don't find singer Steve Johnson's vocals, nor the band's predictable song structures appealing.

You can hear the first few experiments into grindcore growling by Steve as BGV's in "Epidemic of Injustice," which was recorded live in 1989 before Mortification was born. You hear a slight trace of the time changes that Mortification would later take in "Back To Basics," which is another live tune recorded in '89 here.

For serious Light Force fans more than anything else, this album is a great homage to pay to a band. For ordering info, write: PO Box 339, Mentone, Vic. 3194, Australia.

--DV

ARBITRAGE

Here is nine songs of industrial metal from the one-man project Arbitrage. Repetitive, crunching riffs areaccompanied by the snarls and growls of Ross Assink. Like I've said about this guy before, he writes incredibly heavy guitar riffs. The samples are of weird things, like cans being crushed, weedeaters, and so forth. The

floppy fish PROMOTIONS

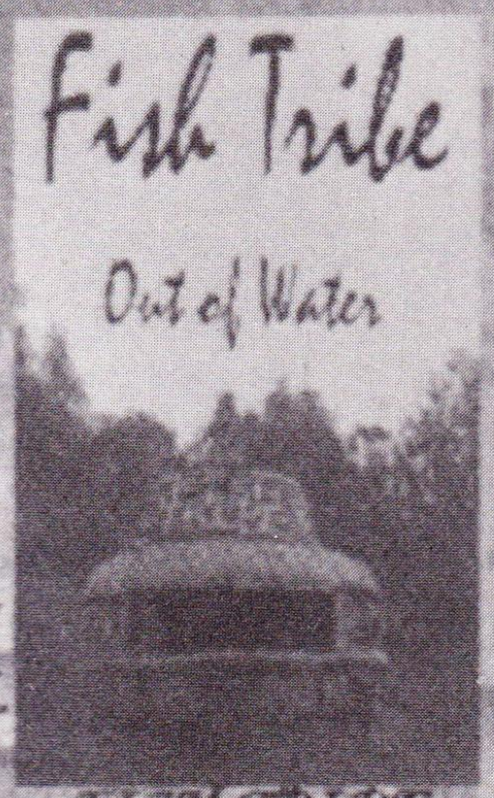
PRESENTS

QUALITY SCRUB
PURE
college alternative rock
$6.50 cass.

MOTHER SHIP
OBEDIENCE
metal\punk
$5.75 E.P. cass.

TOWNE CRYER
AGAINST ALL EVIL
metal\thrash
$7.00 cass.

TORMAN MAXT
progressive metal\rock
$6.00 cass.
$10.00 C.D.



FISH TRIBE
OUT OF WATER
altern\groove
$5.50 E.P. cass

GLENN ROWLANDS
TIME WILL TELL
altern\hard rock
$10.00 C.D.

GLENN ROWLANDS
UNDER THE DESERT MOON
altern\hard rock
$7.00 cass.

PRESTON
TOYS FROM HELL
art rock\metal\folk
$7.00 cass. — $10.00 C.D.

WICKEDS END
SUFFER FOR GLORY
heavy\raw\hardcore
$7.00 cass.

WICKEDS END
TEMPORAL PAIN
hardcore\metal\thrash
$5.75 E.P. cass.

ASCENSION
IN THE BEGINNING
late 80s heavy metal
$8.00 cass.

all ITEMS add $1.50 shipping & handling (checks payable floppy fish records)

FLOPPY FISH RECORDS 243 N. MERIDIAN #97 SAN BERNARDINO C.A. 92410

WICKEDS END — GLENN ROWLAND — FISH TRIBE — ON FLOPPY FISH RECORDS

PH (909) 885-3488

tape even has a note on it that states, "There are no keyboards on this album. All samples were manually manipulated." I find that pretty cool. He put a lot of time into making his noises and samples. I'd also like to commend him on the tape's sound quality. The production gets better and better every time I hear a new Arbitrage tape. A definite improvement over the last one. To order, send $5 to: PO Box 76, Custer WA 98240.

--Eric Shirey

FEAR OF FAITH

These two guys from Fullerton, California will give you a nice helping of industrial metal. The best way for me to describe this would be death metal with a hyperactive drum machine. Add some distorted shrieking and growling vocals. Also include some intense sampling (I wonder where they got those little audio bytes). There you have it. A heavy dose of industrial death metal.

There's only one setback to this tape. The production leaves a little bit to be desired. The guitar is mixed a little low, and sounds kind of muddy. At times the mix sounds cluttered. Overall, though, the music is really good. If you enjoy the Circle of Dust remixes of Living Sacrifice, you will probably enjoy Fear of Faith. For more info, write: Brent or Geoff, 601 Titan Dr #464, Fullerton, CA 92631.

--ES

TOXIC CHURCH

This one-man project has some cool subdued techno-industrial with tons of R.W. Shambach samples. The sonics are very, very clean and make this CD an enjoyable listen, although I prefer the edgier heavy metal-inspired industrial with loud, distorted guitars in it, myself. Most all these tunes would work well in a dance club, but not fare too well at a metal fest, since the keyboards are the main vehicle here. Fans of Deitiphobia might very well dig these 11 tunes. This guy can program his tunes well, and weaves some very pointed and confrontational lyrics into his songs. He tackles evolution, drugs (in "Pharmakeia"), and operating with the power of the Spirit (in "Dunamis"). The best samples are found in the frenetic "State of The Union," a tune about the violence in our country. The best song, though, is the rough 'n' ready bonus track, "The Keeper." Remember that line about distorted guitars? They show up here in all their glory, crunching an incessant riff for the song's duration. If Toxic Church went in this direction, they'd definitely have more of my attention.

For ordering info, write: MTF Records, 3736 N. 17th St, Milwaukee WI 53206.

--DV

ONE BAD APPLE

Hardcore. Need I say more? Punk. Thrash. Crunchy guitar riffs. Screaming vocals. You know, the new cool thing. I will say they're good at what they do. The tape is produced pretty good, except this annoying shriek/feedback that shadows the guitar. You know the rest: If you like Helmet, Pantera, The Crucified, Biohazard, and so on/so forth, you'll definitely like this. Like I said, need I say more? For ordering info, write: 434 Cherry, Trenton, MI 48183.

--ES

BELIEVER'S FREEDOM

Here is some really intense metal out of Tulsa, Oklahoma. No thrash here, but definitely enough power to light up an entire city.

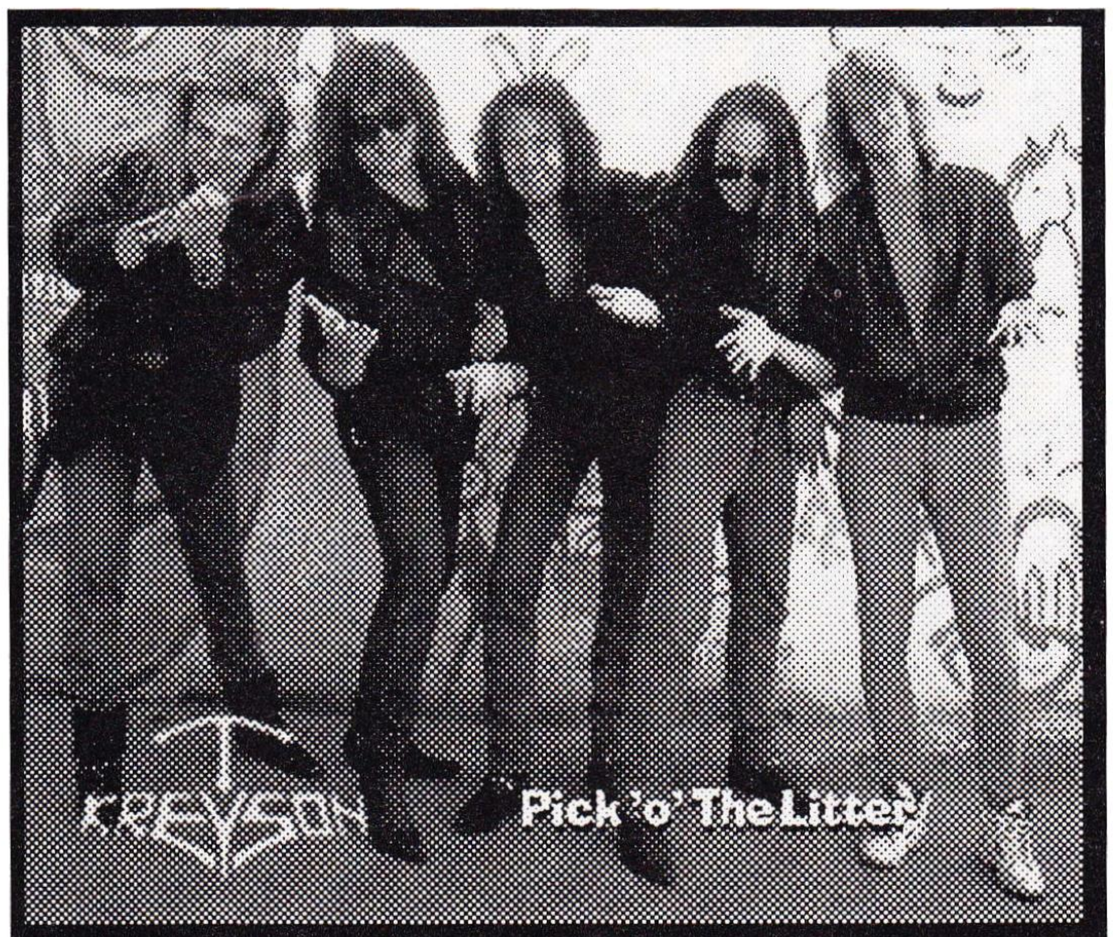
What will get noticed real fast is the guitar playing of John Stockman. His guitar leads are some of the most impressive I've heard in a long time. I smell Rex Carroll influences all over this guy.

"Let it Loose" and "I'm So Tired" are real heavy tunes, and "Pray Them Down" reminds me of Metallica's "Unforgiven."

Great tape! Better production and this band could go places. For ordering info, write: John Stockman, 1728 W. 63rd St, Tulsa, OK 74132.

--Jeff Lott

HM



KREYSON
Angel On The Run
Crusaders

Headbangers and metalheads rejoice! For all those true metal fans out there who thought that they would never hear good quality "power metal" in the Christian market again, the wait is finally over. Presenting Kreyson, a Czech band that can "throw down" better than any band I've heard in years. Man, can these boys shred!

The first of these two albums by this kickin' outfit is jam packed with everything that turned you on to heavy metal to begin with: angelic vocals, blazing guitar leads, tons of double bass, awesome drum sonics, killer chords, and tight rhythm section...need I go on? These boys must've had a lesson from "Mr. Hook," Ken Tamplin himself, because this album hooks big enough to hang a submarine out to dry, tons of 'em. "Deep In the Night" has a killer groove and a really nice chorus that you can actually sing along with. This baby's also got a killer guitar line in it! "No Blue Skies" (my personal fave) begins with a very soft, pleasant intro, and then, without warning, throws it into overdrive like a bullet train running late.

This second offering takes the band in a slightly heavier direction than their previous release. But don't worry!! There's still tons of fabulous music to crank out here. I managed (somehow) to get my hands on lyrics to this album, and it plays out like a concept album. At first listen, you'd never think that, because every single blazing tune on this CD could rule Christian metal radio for months, even years (I know, I'm a DJ). The title track comes inwith some nice double guitars, and then slams into a nice tight groove throughout. "Commandments" follows right along with a killer double bass intro and gets even better from there. Lead Singer Jan Kreyson's voice shines on this record, mainly because he's a little bit more understandable. Quality production and precise musicianship oozes from this album. Sheer talent must ooze from every pore in these guys' bodies.

These are imports so they aren't cheap, but they are well worth the extra couple of bucks. You can get 'em via mail order from Rad Rocker's.

-Calvin J. Vice

Several of these rare tapes and CD's (most especially the ones from overseas) can be found via mail-order (and at some summer festivals) from the following businesses: (Kreyson albums here) Rad Rocker's Emporium, 370 Greentree Lane, Milan, MI 48160; True Tunes, 210 West Front Street, Wheaton, IL 60187; and Long'sChristian Music, PO Box 547336, Orlando, FL 32854-7336. This is a great help for some of you, because it can be a hassle going to the bank to get an international money order in foreign currency (just ask our overseas subscribers when they want to buy something here!).

HM

Michelle Deneen

"Here's a melodic rock EP with the strong voice of Michelle, the sonics are top notch. Fans of Margaret Becker's first album should dig this. Very Cool."
-Doug Van Pelt - "Heaven's Metal"

"Great voice with lots of charisma"
-Jonathan Pagano - "Novella"

"Great music, great voice, lots of confidence"
-Jamie Rowe - "Guardian"

"Exciting talent that communicates to the young generation of today. She is bold and definitely believes in what her mission is"
-David Huff - "David and the Giants"

"Michelle has a sensitive heart and awareness of her music, goals, and mission."
-Michael Demus - "Toymakers Dream"

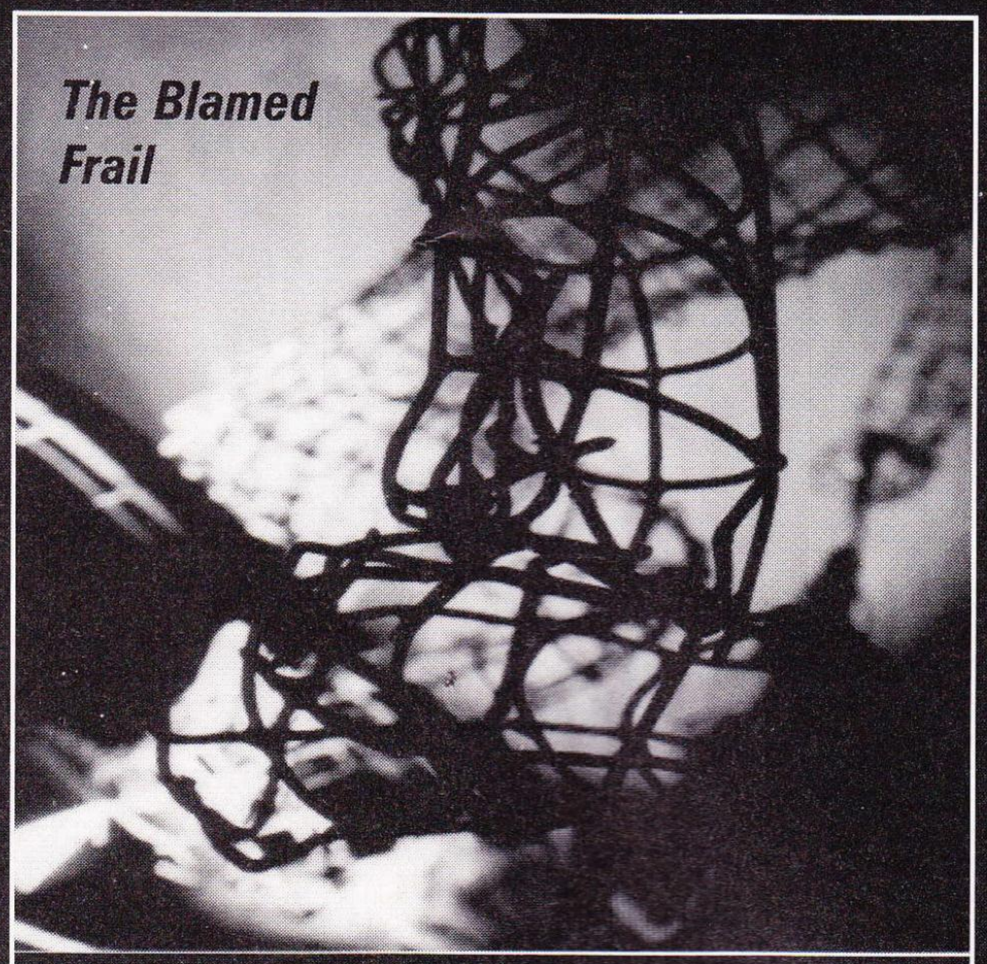
"Michelle is extremely focused, her attitude is positive, she is dedicated to her music and her God. With proper direction she could go far. 'Awesome voice'. This is the best project I have ever accomplished."
-Michael S. Tyrrell - "Mylon and Broken Heart" and "Dora" Pesh

GLASSWALLS

Produced by Michael S. Tyrrell • Michael Demus

Michelle Deneen's EP Glasswall's now available -
CD $7.00 • Cassette $5.00 • Photo $2.00
Devotional Book "Breaking Down the Walls" $5.00

For merchandise or booking info call or write:
Michelle Deneen c/o Warrior Music and Publication
P. O. Box 191058 • Mobile, AL 36619 or 205-865-6491



The Blamed "Frail"

the new album featuring a new harder sound and a blistering new singer

Tooth & Nail RECORDS
92 Corp. PK C-404
Irvine, CA 92714
Photo by none other than Matt Wignall

The Trading Post

Trading Post classified ads are $20 for 50 words or less, and $0.50 per word beyond 50 words. Radio shows must send paid ads on station letterhead.

* **THIS PROPHECY**: Word, Noise, Skate. Some have said that pop, rock, alternative, rap, and metal music could not peacefully co-exist with skateboards and Jesus Christ. Guess we found out too late! Read the 'zine today. Some color, some black & white. Bible studies and creative, biblically-inspired writings, cool music interviews and reviews, skateboarding coverage, and lots more. Free This Prophecy/Tooth & Nail compilation CD (entitled Noise Vol. I) and TP sticker with each paid subscription! For six issues and the free stuff, just send $12/U.S., $23 CANADA, or $25/Overseas to: This Prophecy, P.O. Box 391, Lewis Run PA 16738. Send one buck for a sample issue (Sorry, CD and sticker not included with sample issue request).

* **CROSS RHYTHMS** - Europe's leading Christian music mag. Fully comprehensive review section reviewing EVERY Christian album available in the UK. Send international money order for 52.80 sterling to: Cross Rhythms Subscription Dept, Cornerstone House, 28 Old Park Rd, Peverall, Plymouth, Devon, England, PL3 4PY for 12-issue sub or 4.00 sterling for sample issue.

* How would you like to buy **PHOTOS OF YOUR FAVORITE BANDS?** (You've seen Larry Bolen's work in HM) Write I.H.S. Photos for info: 7439 La Palma, Suite 543, Buena Park, CA 90620.

* **Subscribers in Germany, Switzerland** and **Austria** may order directly from the German distributor of Heaven's Metal: Stephans-Buchhandlung, Stephanstr. 6, D-97070 Wurzburg, Fax (+49)/(0) 931 56351.

* How fast does your music magazine get the newest Christian music news to you? If you're not getting Visions of Gray, you're getting it late. Send for a free 3-month trial subscription: PO Box 724973, Atlanta, GA 31139. Call 404.319.7064. Visions of Gray, Art. Music. Now.

* **WHAT ORGANIZATION** was founded by a supporter of Hitler's, who said, "The most merciful thing that the large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it?" The organization now partially supported with your tax dollars, teaches in public schools, and suggests that it is "normal" for young boys to have sex with dogs?" To get the facts free, write: PLANNED PARENTHOOD PACK, SANCTUARY LIFE, PO BOX 1087, LOMITA, CA 90717..

* **Larry Norman**/People - *I Love You* CD, Taylor - *I Predict 1990 CD,* Neon Cross cassettes, Stonehill - *Welcome To Paradise* Vinyl, send a buck for a complete list of hard to find CD's, Cassettes and Vinyl. DC, 3201 South Kentucky, Sedalia, Missouri 65301..

* **Badly wanted: Pen Pals!** I'm looking for faithful ones. I'm a fan of Christian rock and metal. My faves are Petra, Whitecross, Stryper, Mike Sweet, and Fighter/Amy Wolter. Outside bands includes White Lion, Living Colour, Gorky Park, Reo Speedwagon, Journey/Steve Perry, Survivor, Tom Petty, etc. I'm a real headbanger for God! Please write to me at: Julie Bush, 4606 Franklin Dr, C.C. TX 78415..

* **Shredhead Disciples** is a full sized twenty-page 'zine geared towards Christian bands/musicians with a focus on guitarists. Interviews with Gary and Aaron from Tourniquet, guitar columns, art, pictures, and topics relevant to today's Christian bands. Send $2 to Shredhead Disciples c/o David Hitchen, 74 Royal Park Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2J-3Z3..

* **Christian Bassist** wanting to join hard rock band. Have own equip. and orig. material. Inf: Whitecross, Guardian, SCC, Bride. Call Scott (219) 365-8423..

* **Bassist and guitarist** needed to complete all-original progressive/punk metal band to reach the lost where they are. Influences: King's X, Extreme, Kansas, Living Colour, Rush. You will be: talented, creative, dedicated, and ministry-minded; a serious musician and Christian. We have songs, talent, connections. Vocals a major plus. (201) 672-3786..

* **ATTN: GUITARIST** Is your guitar in need of repair, refinishing or just plain overhauling? Let ABERNATHY GUITARS do the work for you - (via UPS)! From repairs to the Vintage guitar to the Hot Rod "wired to explode," we can help! Abernathy's exclusive custom and standard model guitars are also available. Call or write for details! P.O. Box 518, Pleasant Garden, NC USA 27313 (910) 674-5093..

* CREATION MAGAZINE Ever wondered why the magazine racks only have science magazines that believe in evolution? It's called censorship. Find out the evidence for creation. Subscribe: CREATION MAGAZINE $22 for 4 quarterly issues, Creation Science Ministries, P.O. Box 6330, Florence, Kentucky 41022. Phone 1-800-350-3232. Say you saw it in Heaven's Metal..

* There are a few **Back Issues** of HM available. They are: #20 (Sacred Warrior); #29 (Jet Circus); #31 (X-Sinner); #32 (Crucified); #33 (Holy Soldier); #34 (Lanny Cordola); #35 (Novella); #36 (REZ); #37 (Tourniquet); #40 (Guardian); #41 (Mortification); #42 (Believer); #43 (Tamplin); #44 (Magdalen); #45 (Barren Cross); #46 (Michael Sweet); #47 (Living Sacrifice); #48 (Bride); #49 (Tourniquet); and #50 (Precious Death). Allothers are sold out. Each copy is $3.50 (Canadian/ Foreign orders add $3 per copy for Air Mail postage).

* We've still got a few of the black silk-screened hats at $5 each.

* We also carry three of Truth Clothing's hottest hat designs with the HM logo embroidered on the back. These go for $16 (plus $1 postage/$3 Canada & $5 foreign).

* We're closing out the **Heaven's Metal "WORSHIP AT FULL VOLUME" Dogtags**. They're $3 each while supplies last (plus 50 cents postage/foreign $1).

* **Heaven's Metal Posters** are still available from some issues at $1 each: Holy Soldier; Believer; King's X; Mad At The World; Tourniquet; Tim Bushong; Ray Parris (B&W); and Zion (B&W).

* **HEAVEN'S METAL "WORSHIP AT FULL VOLUME" BUTTONS** are $1.00 (plus 50 cents postage) each (Canada/Foreign add $1 postage). They come in red, orange, pink, blue and green.

* **Heaven's Metal Stickers** are $1.00 each (plus 29 cents postage/$0.50 foreign).

* Each subscriber to Heaven's Metal has two **Prayer Partners**. We take the names directly above and below yours on the master subscription list, who have been designated to pray for you and vice-versa. Write in if you'd like their names and addresses.

* If you'd be willing to make copies of a **Heaven's Metal flyer** to post around your town, write in for a master copy.

* **NEED TO TALK?** Call the Sanctuary Hotline at 1-800-548-5222. No one will take your money. Trained counselors are there strictly to help you.

HM

PLANK EYE

Available March 95'

from Tooth & Nail Records

For a full color catalog Send a SASE to Tooth & Nail merchandise PO Box 12698 Seattle, WA 98111-4698

Tooth & Nail RECORDS

PRECIOUS DEATH

IF YOU MUST

Their NEW ALBUM
"If You Must"
RELEASING OCTOBER 1994

Featuring The Amazing Cuts:
"SOME NEW SONG"
"SO FAR AWAY"

METRO ONE

Metro One 2025 W. Balboa Blvd. 2nd Floor Newport Beach, CA 92663
Tel. (714) 673-6701 Fax. (714) 673-6772 E-mail: RBJAM@aol.com
Send a SASE for a free copy of our 8 page Metro Fun Newsletter today!

Pastor Bob

Want to commit suicide? Go ahead!

The voices were starting again. Jason sat silently in his room. There was nothing on the stereo. The t.v. was turned off. All was quiet. And yet inside Jason's head there was a war going on!

Jason felt worthless. He was a hypocrite. He began to doubt whether he was even a Christian at all! Before Jason had invited Jesus into his life, he felt like he was on the brink of insanity. You know the story -- drugs, alcohol, sex, dark music, anger, rage, hatred.

Jason sat in his room and remembered how it was. He had been so excited to become a Christian. It seemed the perfect answer to the turmoil he felt inside. Jason loved going to church -- and even started reading his Bible. That was a switch -- especially for someone who never even cracked a book in his life! He had found hope and a reason to live. He had been so happy in his new life as a Christian!

But now Jason found himself at the very same spot he was at in his life before he became a Christian. Drugs, sex, even the old music! What had happened to his Christian life? It had seemed like everything was going so well! How did he end up in the same sin he came out of?

Many people find themselves at this place. Maybe you are one of them! The Apostle Paul understood this deilemma. Even though he didn't return to his old lifestyle, he understood the battle. Look at what he says in Romans 7:21-25: *"When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God -- through Jesus Christ our Lord!"*

Christians everywhere are spiritually defeated, because they don't realize there's a battle going on for their mind! As the battle rages, the success of their daily Christian lives

[Photo by Sandra Mayurnik]

are determined. But I want to encourage you. The battle for your mind is absolutely winnable! If you're frustrated with your life -- and if you feel like you can't make it anymore **-- commit suicide! But don't harm your body** -- just kill the old sin nature!

After you kill the sin nature, it is hung on the cross in the same way that Jesus was -- and let me tell you, that death was brutal. When the old nature is dealt with, it doesn't go away, but you are free from obeying it -- this wasn't the case before (you had no choice). Now, as you allow the Lord to transform your life, you are under grace and you can live in peace and freedom within the law of peace, freedom and grace. You are forgiven and can live at peace with yourself and God, no matter how much you fall down.

If your life is anything like mine, you are always struggling with temptation. There are times when I feel like my whole life is falling apart! Sometimes I find myself dealing with things I thought I had taken care of 20 years ago, but I know that I am still forgiven in the same way now as then.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."* You see, God gives us a choice. We can live God's way or our own way. I"m sure you have already noticed that God's way of thinking and your way of thinking are usually in conflict! But that's where the battle lies -- in your mind!

You will experience God's power in your life when you are committed to His way of living. The more you obey God, the more you will win the battle for your mind!

When you became a Christian, God gave you a new nature. You became a new person. But your old flesh and all your old habits are still there. You came into your new faith with all the habits and thought patterns of your flesh. Your flesh will never get any better. That's why the Bible tells us to trust in God -- and allow him to take over!

Every day, you have the option to choose to walk in the flesh or to walk with God. As the battle gets stronger and stronger, you mayk feel like you are the helpless victim in the battle. But you are anything but helpless! **You** are the one who determines whether you will win or lose the battle!

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 tells us: *"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."*

What are you influenced by? Books? Movies? Music? Friends? The Bible gives us some great instruction for our new lives -- Romans 12:2: *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* Paul's command is so important to the process of destroying our old ways of thinking and our old behavior patterns.

How do you handle temptation when it comes? You choose God's way instead of your way! Satan knowsjust which buttons to push to tempt you away from depending on Christ. He has observed your behavior over the years and he knows where you're vulnerable. That's where he'll attack.

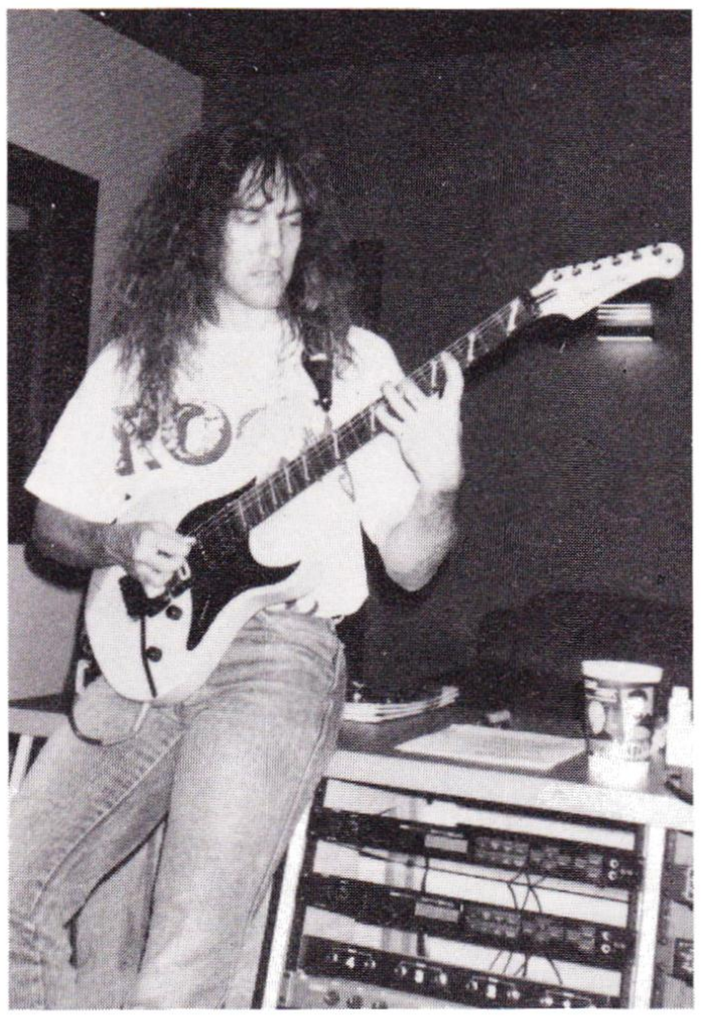
The moment you are tempted, you are at the threshold of a decision. If you don't immediately choose to take the thought captive to Christ, you'll begin to consider it as an option. This will increase the probability of yielding to it. Yet the Bible promises in 1 Corinthians 10:13: *"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."*

The escape to temptation is at the moment you consider it an option! If you don't control the temptation at that **moment** by refusing it, you'll run the risk of allowing the temptation to control you! Once you direct your will toward your flesh by considering the temptation, you are rarely able to

cont'd next page

Licks & Tricks

By Jeff Scheetz



Last time we looked at chord scales. Dust off that last issue and proceed!

The key to organizing these scales in your mind is in learning two things:

1) Because we are building these chords from the Major scale, the chords follow our basic Major scale formula of whole steps and half steps. (W W H W W W H).

2) The I, IV and V chords are Major, the II, III and VI chords are minor, and the VII chord is a minor b5.

By memorizing these two rules, you can find the chords to any key.

I IIm IIIm IV V VIm VIImb5 Octave

W W H W W W H

I IV and V are Major
II III and VI are minor
VII is minor b5

Same pattern in any key

Try to name all the chords in C Major.

I _____
II _____
III _____
IV _____
V _____
VI _____
VII _____

Repeat this excercise for all keys.

This lesson is an excerpt from Jeff's new book & CD series -- The Jeff Scheetz Guitar Method. For more information write Bam-Zoom! PO Box 481171, Kansas City, MO 64148. **HM**

Pastor Bob cont'd:

keep yourself from following through with it! You need to learn to take temptation captive at **the thought stage**. Or will it become **an act**.

The best way to do this is to **fight the battle before the battle**. You know your areas of weakness. You know you will fall again in the same areas you always fall in. You need to decide before you get to the point of temptation what your plan of action will be. If you don't have a plan, you will most likely be defeated!

Romans 12:2 says, *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will."* How do you renew your mind? By filling it with God's **Truth -- His Word**! As you continue to fill your mind with God's Truth, you will equip yourself to recognize the lies of Satan and take them captive!

You see, you have control. God has given you power over temptation and sin. You just need to use it. Here is a "very short" story I thought you might enjoy!

PORTRAIT OF PROGRESS
AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN 5 SHORT CHAPTERS
By Portia Nelson

I
I walk down the street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I fall in.
I am lost . . . I am helpless, it isn't my fault.
It takes forever to find a way out.

II
I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I pretend I don't see it.
I fall in again.
I can't believe I am in the same place, but, it wasn't myk fault.
It still takes a long time to get out.

III
I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I see it is there.
I still fall in . . . it's a habit.
My eyes are open. I know where I am. It is my fault.
I get out immediately.

IV
I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I walk around it.

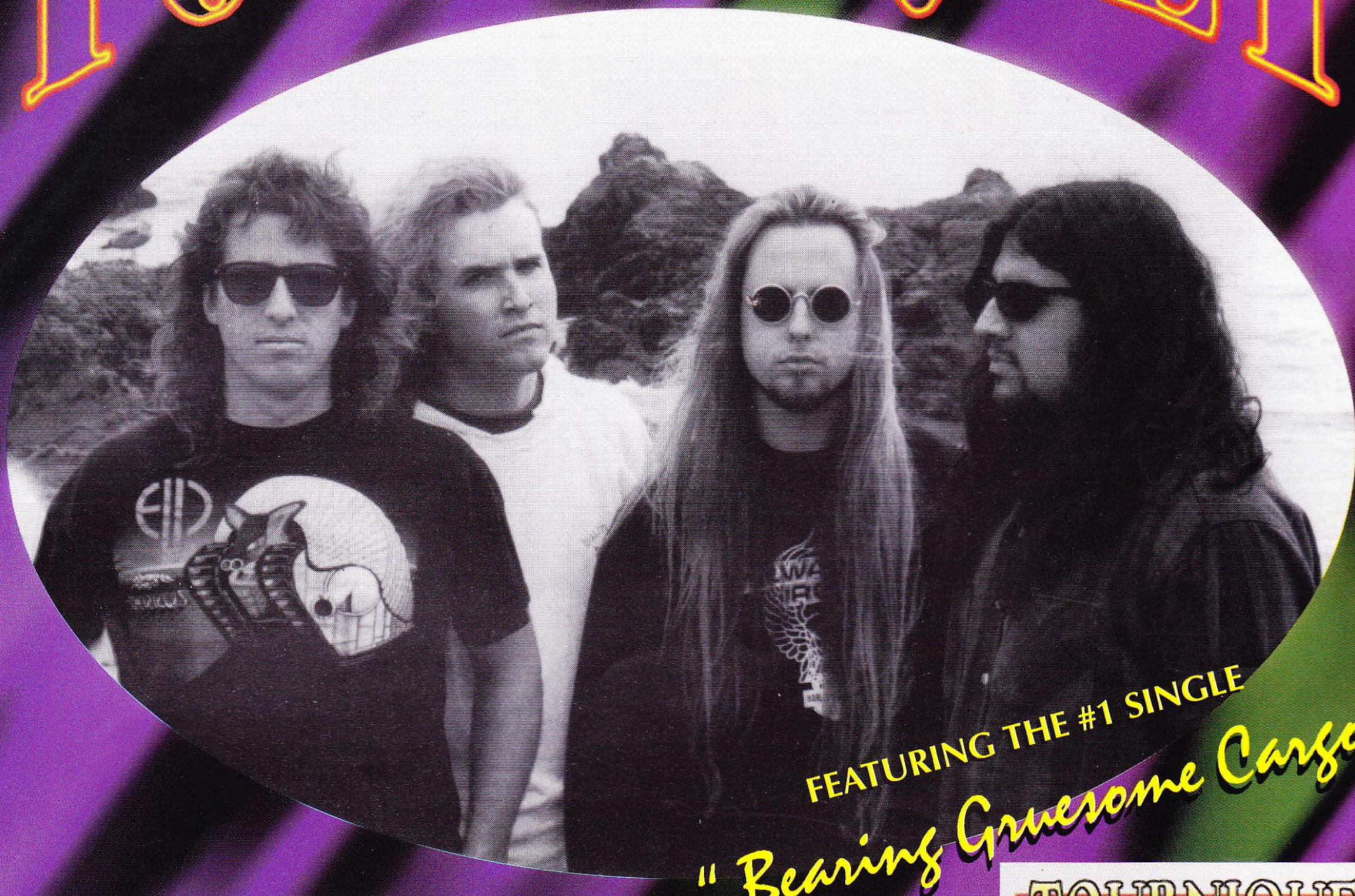
V
I walk down another street.

I'd love to hear from you! Write to me at: Pastor Bob's Column, Sanctuary International, PO Box 23945, Nashville, TN 37202-3945. Need to talk? Call us at 1 (800) 548-5222. **HM**

TAKE HOME THE BEST LIVE METAL BAND EVER SEEN

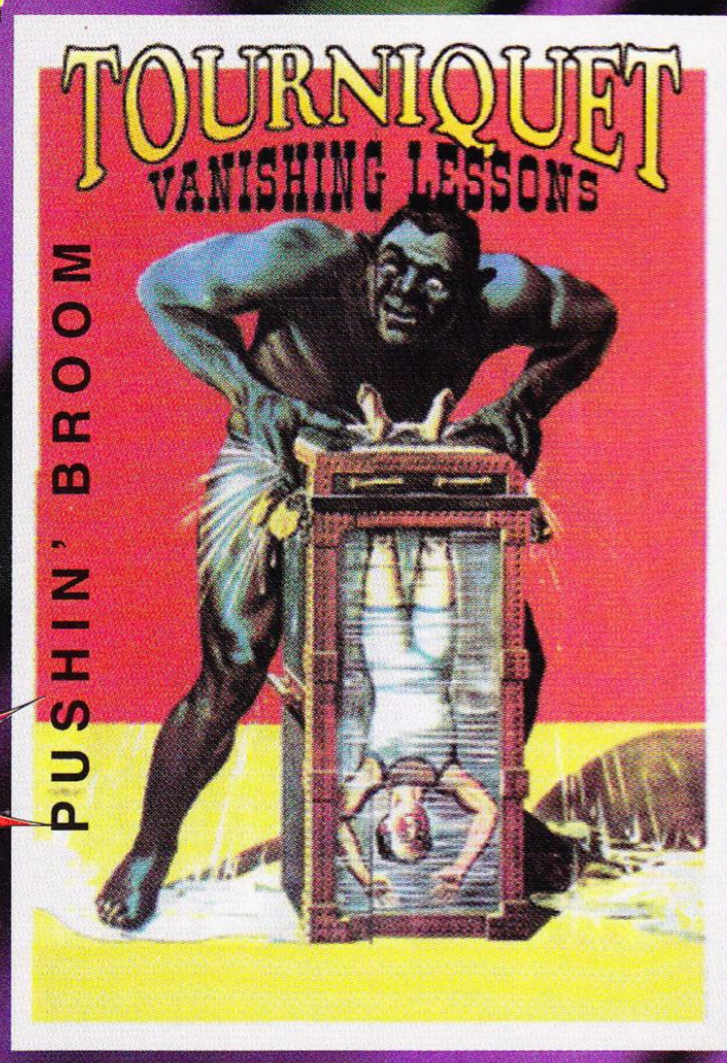
"... a Heaviness Factor of 10" - DVP

TOURNIQUET



FEATURING THE #1 SINGLE

"Bearing Gruesome Cargo"



40 MINUTE PACKAGE

INCLUDES FULL VIDEO FROM THE #1 METAL TUNE

"BEARING GRUESOME CARGO"

RARE LIVE FOOTAGE,
EXTENSIVE INTERVIEWS,
AND CRAZY "ON THE ROAD" CLIPS

$10.99

INTENSE Records

DIAMANTE DISTRIBUTION

BRIDE

WE AT RUGGED RECORDS
ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUCE
THE SIGNING OF BRIDE. OUR VISION
FOR QUALITY PROJECTS CONTINUES AS
DOES OUR COMMITMENT TO HONOR GOD
WE ARE THANKFUL THAT THE MEMBERS

SHARE IN OUR VISION!

NOW IN PRE-PRODUCTION.....

THEY'VE ROCKED YOU...

AND ROCKED YOU...

AND ROCKED YOU...

E BRIDE

COMING THIS SUMMER ON...

RUGGED RECORDS

WANTED:

PROSTITUTES

If God had a list of the types of people He loves the most, prostitutes would probably be at the top of the list. God really loves prostituted women a lot. One night Jesus was having dinner at a very religious man's house. While reclined at the table, a prostituted woman came in with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the religious man saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is -- that she is a sinner."

Jesus knew who was touching Him. He knew exactly what kind of life she had led. Instead of scowling at her and telling her to get away from His perfect self, He honored her. This was unheard of in His time. He not only spoke to the woman, which wasn't politically correct at the time, but He spoke well of her. He revealed that she was one of the very few, if not the only one, who understood that He was going to be crucified and buried. He said, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to Me. When she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever this Gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." (Matthew 26:10-13)

This was not the only prostituted woman that was honored in Scripture. Rahab the prostitute is listed in the genealogy of Jesus, a very serious lineage that traces Him back to King David -- in order to fulfill the prophecies that the Messiah must come from the line of David. Rahab is also listed in the "hall of faith" in Hebrews 11.

Why did God take special care to show honor to a prostitute? I think it was because He cares about people, period. It is ironic that He chose to honor a prostitute, because it seems a prostituted woman is on the bottom of what I call the "self-esteem totem pole." Not many people have been treated as an object -- used, abused, and left behind -- as much as prostitutes have. They may look pretty when they're young and unscarred, but once a prostitute is "used up," they are often discarded and considered no more than "human trash."

Jesus reached into this pit of despair and showed dignity to someone who probably had little self-esteem or dignity left in their soul. If you've ever felt like you've been at the bottom of the "self-esteem totem pole," you can be sure that Jesus will extend His concern, love, mercy, honor, and dignity towards you. Even if He has extended His mercy to you a thousand times and you've let Him down a million, He will not discard you. He promised to "never leave you nor forsake you." He keeps His promises. Believe Him.